

# ***The Campaign for Addiction Prevention, Treatment and Recovery***

## **Repeal the Sales Tax Exemption on Alcohol!**

### ***Action Alert***

June 15, 2009

**To:** Campaign Members

**Fr:** Vic DiGravio and Maryanne Frangules, Co-Chairs

**Re: Action Alert**

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As you know, the FY 2010 Budget Conference Committee is currently meeting to work out the differences between the House and Senate budgets. One of the issues being debated is whether or not to include the elimination of the sales tax exemption on the sale of alcohol sold in stores in the final FY 2010 budget. Also attached, for your information, is the most recent letter sent to every member of the legislature on behalf of our Campaign.

**If you have not already done so, please call your legislators today and ask them to contact the Conference Committee members in support the repeal of the exemption of the sales tax on alcohol sold in stores.** If you are unsure who your legislators are, click [here](#).

#### **Talking Points**

- Please support the elimination of the sales tax exemption on the sale of alcohol sold in stores.
- With an increase in the sales tax to 6.25%, the removal of the sales tax exemption on alcohol would raise about \$115 million to support substance abuse treatment and prevention and other vital programs.
- Massachusetts currently ranks second in the nation for our high rate of alcohol consumption. However, using taxes to raise prices on alcohol is among the most effective deterrents to drinking and underage binge drinking that researchers have discovered.
- A recent poll conducted by *Strategic Opinion Research* found that 58 percent of Massachusetts voters favor repealing the tax exempt status on alcohol purchased at a store for off-site consumption if the proceeds were put into a substance abuse health protection fund to support alcohol and other drug prevention, treatment and recovery support services.

#### **Conference Committee Contact Information:**

<b>Senate President Murray</b>	<a href="mailto:Therese.Murray@state.ma.us">Therese.Murray@state.ma.us</a>	(617) 722-1500
<b>House Speaker DeLeo</b>	<a href="mailto:Robert.DeLeo@state.ma.us">Robert.DeLeo@state.ma.us</a>	(617) 722-2500
<b>Senator Panagiotakos</b>	<a href="mailto:Steven.Panagiotakos@state.ma.us">Steven.Panagiotakos@state.ma.us</a>	(617) 722-1630
<b>Senator Brewer</b>	<a href="mailto:Stephen.Brewer@state.ma.us">Stephen.Brewer@state.ma.us</a>	(617) 722-1540
<b>Senator Knapik</b>	<a href="mailto:Michael.Knapik@state.ma.us">Michael.Knapik@state.ma.us</a>	(617) 722-1415
<b>Representative Murphy</b>	<a href="mailto:Rep.CharlesMurphy@hwm.State.MA.US">Rep.CharlesMurphy@hwm.State.MA.US</a>	(617) 722-2990
<b>Representative L'Italian</b>	<a href="mailto:Rep.Barbaral'Italien@Hou.State.MA.US">Rep.Barbaral'Italien@Hou.State.MA.US</a>	(617) 722-2380
<b>Representative deMacedo</b>	<a href="mailto:Rep.VinnydeMacedo@Hou.State.MA.US">Rep.VinnydeMacedo@Hou.State.MA.US</a>	(617) 722-2100

***Thank you for your ongoing support of our Campaign!***