

**LB 682**  
**General Affairs Committee**  
**Testimony of Chris Wagner**  
**Project Extra Mile**  
**March 25, 2019**

Good afternoon, Chairman Briese and members of the committee. My name is Chris Wagner, and I am the Executive Director of Project Extra Mile, a network of community partnerships across the state working to prevent excessive alcohol consumption and its tragic consequences. We are here today in opposition to LB 682.

Our organization advocates for evidence-based strategies to prevent and reduce alcohol-related harms. One of the most effective, evidence-based strategies is increasing the price of alcohol through increased alcohol excise taxes. By changing the method for taxing spirits in our state, LB 682 will reduce annual revenues by \$1.6 million according to the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission. Alcohol taxes are an important factor in determining the price of alcohol, and we know from the scientific literature that cheaper alcohol leads to higher rates of excessive drinking and more alcohol-related harms in our communities, including but not limited to car crashes, assaults, domestic violence, alcohol poisoning and seven types of cancer.

The bottom line is that LB 682 is a tax cut on spirits that will cost our state millions of dollars in the years to come and contribute to alcohol-related harms statewide. Therefore, we'd urge you to indefinitely postpone LB 682. Thank you for your consideration.