

## Lou Mansolillo

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**From:** Lorena Childress <childresslorena@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 18, 2023 10:14 AM  
**To:** House Corporations Committee  
**Subject:** Bill Number 5334 (Happy Hour Bill) - Testimony

Dear Sir/Madam of the House Committee,

I am a registered voter in Coventry and am against this bill for a number of reasons that I hope you will consider.

It 100-percent encourages drunk driving by encouraging patrons to order and down as many drinks as they can in a short amount of time -- putting the safety and wellbeing of everyone else on the road (driving or walking/running) in immediate jeopardy.

Please note that I am aware that the counter argument to that is that the restaurant/bar owner will be responsible for overseeing serving. Honestly, that is laughable. I am almost 55 years old and I drink alcoholic beverages and am involved in many social functions (I work in real estate and there is a lot of alcohol consumed at these events, often with open bar).

In all of my adult years, I have not one time EVER seen anyone refused drinks - in fact, they are encouraged to order one last one at the Happy Hour price for last call. Every time. The server comes around and reminds everyone that is 5:55 so get your last orders in. And even if you/others don't want another drink, people usually order another one because it's cheap. And they stay a little longer to have that drink then leave.

I have seen people completely intoxicated and still be served more drinks, in my party or at other tables. Nobody takes their keys. They are left to do whatever they want - which is to leave and hit the road in that condition. The servers are busy serving customers at other tables and especially now, are often understaffed so they are working their tails off -- they do not have time to babysit.

Their tips are also based on the check total, so why would they not encourage more drinks?

I would suggest that we take a more responsible approach and discount FOOD and not alcohol. Nobody needs to drink more. Encouraging people to drink more in a short amount of time leads to driving under the influence because your body is flooded with alcohol the liver cannot even process.

It causes so much pain to the victims of drunk driving accidents and their families. Immeasurable pain. The night Matthew Dennison and his friend were hit, I was out with friends at the Tavern on the Hill. There were so many intoxicated people there. I immediately called my daughter to make sure she was safe, texted my nephew, texted my friend to check on her kids. Afterwards I thought, was that guy there that night? The pain these families like the Dennisons and Passerettis have experienced is unfathomable and preventable -- something no family should ever have to go through.

Please do not encourage more pain and suffering by passing this bill.

Truly,  
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