

MEASURE: HB 2008
EXHIBIT: 18
H BUSINESS & LABOR
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SUBMITTED BY: Helen Ying

March 20, 2013

To: Members of the Business and Labor Committee

Good morning, Chair Doherty and Committee members for taking time to hear my thoughts about HB 2008 and why it is critical that this bill be given serious and thoughtful consideration. My name is Helen Ying. I have been an educator for 30 years, a Board member of Old Town/Chinatown Community Association, a member of a task force reducing high risk drinking in Multnomah County, a Board member of We Can Do Better, and a member of Kaiser's Patient Advisory Council.

I am asking for your support in bringing HB 2008, a bill that protects communities from problem bars. Having been an educator in secondary schools for 30 years, I am well aware of the impact of alcohol use and addiction for youth and their families. Being a community member that is active in addressing safety and livability issues, I have experienced, heard about, and witnessed terrible and tragic incidents that have occurred due to unsafe and irresponsible practices in drinking establishments. A recent incident involves my nephew who was home for the holidays in December. He was knocked unconscious after leaving a drinking establishment in Old Town Chinatown and had to be transferred via ambulance to a hospital. While it is unclear what actually took place preceding to him being knocked out, it is clear that he had too much to drink as with the party that was involved in the altercation with him.

It is imperative that we as a state take action to improve the enforcement tools to protect the community from problem bars and taverns. HB 2008 will provide the tools to help OLCC to improve its ability to work with businesses and local government to address public safety issues more effectively. The time to act is now and I hope that you will take action to help build safer and more livable communities in Oregon.

Sincerely,
Helen