



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

January 23, 2023

Members of the House Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Members of the House Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee,

I am writing today in support of House Bill 279-FN, "Increasing the Penalty for On-Premises Overserving Alcohol." These proposed changes to the preexisting legislation will bolster the deterrent needed to ensure that we are doing everything possible to keep our communities and individuals safe here in the Granite State.

I commend the Croke family and this bill's sponsor, Rep. Maurcen Mooney, for their efforts in bringing attention to a shortfall of accountability on the part of New Hampshire's licensees in cases resulting in death or serious bodily injury. Their efforts are being memorialized in the name of Elizabeth Croke, who tragically lost her life in a preventable head-on collision with a drunk driver over a year ago. Elizabeth was driving home from work when a driver, driving the wrong way on the Everett Turnpike, collided with her car. Both operators did not survive. This tragedy was entirely avoidable, and it is our job to ensure that our citizens are safe, whether they are at home or traveling the highways and byways of New Hampshire, and that violators are held accountable. This combination of deterrence through accountability and responsible service and consumption will help to fortify the state's existing practices and help to prevent the tragic loss of life in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris T. Sununu".

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor