

**MICHIGAN COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL PROBLEMS**  
**P. O. Box 10212, Lansing, Michigan 48901**

**MICAP PURPOSE STATEMENT**

**The Michigan Council on Alcohol Problems (MICAP) educates Michigan citizens about the consequences of the abuse of beverage alcohol and other impairing drugs and promotes public policies that eliminate or mitigate those consequences.**

MICAP represents about 1000 individuals in addition to about 2000 churches across the State of Michigan. We are not prohibitionists; rather, we are a temperance organization.

MICAP does not support HB 0331 for several reasons:

1. The loss of tax revenue to the State of Michigan and the consequence of cheaper beverage alcohol with the concomitant rise in the use of beverage alcohol.
2. The huge burden already borne by the taxpayers of Michigan for the fallout costs of beverage alcohol.
3. The fact that so few dollars are provided in the state budget for prevention and treatment of this burden.
4. The erosion to less than half by inflation of that which was originally established as taxes on beverage alcohol in the State of Michigan.

Notes on the above:

1. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Marin Institute, The Center for Science in the Public Interest, and other groups have adequately established that when prices are reduced for beverage alcohol, for whatever reason, the use of beverage alcohol rises.
2. CASA, The Center for Alcohol and Substance Abuse at Columbia University indicates that for every dollar in costs for Substance Abuse the state spends 1 cent for prevention, 2 cents for treatment, 1 cent for regulation and compliance, and 96 cents as a burden on public programs costing 16.1% of the cost of State Programs including: Public Safety, State Workforce, Justice, Education, Health, Child/Family Assistance, Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities. This does not include loss of production in manufacturing/businesses in the State of Michigan.
3. The amount included in the State Budget for Prevention and Treatment is miniscule. And any loss (of the \$14 Million, estimated) will simply make the budget that much tighter.
4. Taxes on beverage alcohol need to be tied to inflation so we do not have to fight these battles over and over again.

Respectfully Submitted

Rev. W. J. (Bill) Amundsen, Retired  
Treasurer, MICAP