



**Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer**  
Oregon House District 46  
900 Court St. NE, Salem, OR 97301

December 22, 2020

Timothy G. Sekerak  
Chief Clerk of the House  
State Capitol Building, H271  
Salem, OR 97301

Vote explanation on SB 1801: Restaurant Support Package

Dear Chief Clerk Sekerak,

I voted YES on SB 1801, the policy package designed to help struggling restaurants on the verge of collapse due to the pandemic. The restaurant industry is seeing revenue losses between 40-70% due to temporary closures, reduced indoor seating, and increased costs to maintain COVID-19 protocols. Outdoor seating is difficult to maintain during Oregon's wet, cold winter season. Volume driven by third-party vendors is often non-revenue generating due to high fees.

I want to support these small business owners and employees – and ensure a vibrant social ecosystem post-COVID. My preferred strategy would be to subsidize restaurants through federal relief, as in [Congressman Blumenauer's restaurant bill](#). Because that has not yet become law, SB 1801 provides two provisions that would be in effect during and for 60 days following the Governor's executive order:

- 1) Capping the fee third-party deliverers can charge restaurants, as several [other regions](#) have done, which I strongly support.
- 2) Allowing "cocktails-to-go," which I supported with reservations because of Oregon's abysmal rate of addiction and access to treatment. Alcohol use, suicide, and domestic violence have increased as families are stuck in the "stay at home" orders. These pandemic-related increases are on top of the significant problems Oregon already faces in chronic homelessness, high rates of children placed into foster care, and high rates of hospitalization and incarceration due to use of alcohol and other drugs.

To mitigate the public health concerns related to making hard alcohol more accessible. I appreciate the bill's requirement to have tamper-proof, sealed containers, to check for age verification, and to require a "substantial food item" with the two cocktail/wine cap. **I encourage OLCC to consult** with [Oregon Recovers](#), the [Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission](#), and [Oregon Health Authority Behavioral Health](#) to pursue other "best practices" from states that best balanced this policy with public health mitigations.

**I urge OHA to collect and analyze data** on ED visits due to abuse of alcohol and other drugs. OHA should run a report from the ESSENCE surveillance system to see if alcohol-related ED visits have increased during the pandemic, and should set up on-going ways to monitor substance abuse incidents.

**We need comprehensive solutions to our addiction crisis**, starting in the 2021 legislative session, including increasing the beer and wine tax and the price of hard liquor to support prevention, treatment and recovery strategies identified in the [Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission](#) strategic plan. While yesterday marked my last day of voting, I remain ready to assist with these efforts!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alissa Keny-Guyer', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rep. Alissa Keny-Guyer, MPH  
House District 46, NE/SE Portland