



Please **OPPOSE** or **AMEND** HB26-1330 Alcohol Beverages Entertainment Districts

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Colorado *opposes* HB 1330 unless it is amended to make clear that Colorado’s statewide 2AM cutoff time on alcohol sales applies to entertainment districts.

As introduced, the bill removes the size cap on entertainment districts and leaves the setting of hours to local licensing authorities. Taken together, this would allow a city to designate its whole downtown as an entertainment district and keep bars open until 4AM or even 24-7. With more deaths and injuries on our roads and fewer law enforcement officers to keep us safe, *this bill is a risk that Colorado can't afford to take.*

Deaths on our roads have surged. Beginning in 2020, our state saw a historic surge in lives taken by impaired drivers on our Colorado roads *with the highest annual totals since 2001.*

In 2025, 236 lives were taken by impaired drivers on Colorado roads (CDOT Fatal Crash Data). This means 36% more people were killed in 2025 than in 2019, before the pandemic.

- *Local control doesn't protect us from impaired driving.* Drunk drivers don't stop at city or county lines—even areas that don't extend drinking hours will still see an increase in drunk driving if nearby areas do.
- The current 2AM statewide cut-off time for alcohol sales helps prevent barhopping in search of one last drink, reducing drunk driving.
- In New York, counties with longer drinking hours (1AM–4AM) saw *increased* drunk driving and DUI charges (Schofield & Denson, 2013).
- When San Marcos, TX extended drinking hours, it led to more law enforcement service calls, public intoxication, and drunk driving (Chamlin & Scott, 2014).

There aren't enough law enforcement officers to keep our roads safe.

While our state’s population has increased by 12%, the number of police officers per capita in Colorado has **DECREASED** by 3.5% (2013-2023 FBI Uniform Crime Reporting). Colorado lags behind the US average of police officers per capita by almost 9%.

236

Impaired driving
deaths in 2025

10%

Increase in crash
deaths in CO,
worst since 2022

8th

CO ranks eighth
worst in US for
alcohol deaths

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Extending drinking hours will NOT make us safer. Supporters of extending bar hours often argue this would increase public safety. To be clear, research indicates the opposite—*extending hours will increase crime.*

- In New York, *every 1-hour increase in drinking hours increased violent crimes*, as well as aggravated assaults and non-gun violence (Schofield & Denson, 2013).
- A review of 49 studies from 8 countries found that increasing drinking hours for bars **increased alcohol use and related harms such as violence** (Stockwell & Chikritzhs, 2009).
- In Baltimore, reducing—*not extending*—hours of alcohol sales was associated with a **29% decrease in violent crime** and a **48% decrease in homicide** (Rosen, Trangenstein, Fullem, et al, 2024)



Extending hours will hurt the Colorado Economy. A 2018 cost-benefit analysis of bar hours in Los Angeles found the costs of moving from 2AM to 4AM would exceed benefits by a 2.3 to 1 ratio (Subbaraman & Kerr, 2019). The report estimated that if just 20% of late-night bars moved to 4AM **it would cost the public \$1.066 billion over five years.** In New York, the estimated cost from having licensed premises open after 1 a.m. was \$194 million (Schofield & Denson, 2013).

According to NHTSA, the cost of a single motor vehicle fatality is approximately **\$9.4 million** including medical expenses, lost productivity, legal and court costs, emergency services, insurance administration, congestion, property damage, and workplace losses.

Alcohol deaths are reaching alarming rates. Colorado ranks 8th in the nation for alcohol-induced deaths — a rate that has remained above pre-pandemic levels — according to KFF's 2024 analysis. Excessive alcohol use costs each Coloradan \$1,005 per year—4th highest in the US (CDC).

In this environment, MADD Colorado and the victim/survivors we represent believe that any change in State Law that could increase impaired driving should be examined with the highest scrutiny. This bill has the potential to increase the number of tragedies on our Colorado roads. ***Please vote to oppose or amend HB26-1330 Alcohol Beverages Entertainment Districts.***