BACKGROUND
To support economic recovery, relaxed regulations are in place for cannabis and alcohol licensees indefinitely through Gov. Inslee’s “Healthy Washington—Roadmap to Recovery” plan.¹ Despite COVID-19 business challenges, alcohol revenue grew 81% from pre-pandemic February to mid-pandemic August 2020.²

CONSEQUENCES
Industry leaders as well as State decision-makers are advocating for permanent policy changes to address temporary economic relief.

PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN
Long-term impacts to our youth of making these allowances permanent will cost much more than the temporary economic benefit.³

Youth are under immense stress

Quarantine’s Impacts on Youth:⁴

- Fear
- Anxiety
- Social Isolation
- Access to Trusted Adults

Coping With This Stress:

- Teens use substances to cope.⁵
- Youth see adults in their lives modeling the use of substances to cope with their own stress.
- Social isolation is increasing youth mental health risk and suicidal ideation.⁶

Youth Substance Use & Mental Health

Youth substance use and social isolation are associated with increased risk of depression.

Substance use and suicidal ideation are linked, especially for high-risk groups.⁷,⁸

COVID-19 has shown us that addressing youth substance use & mental health is essential, now more than ever.

Permanent Policy Changes to a Temporary Problem

1. Relaxed regulations are associated with increased availability of substances.⁹
2. The public health effects of these changes increase social and health care costs, which erase the tax revenue gained from product sales.³
3. Permanent policy changes are not the answer.
# WSLCB TEMPORARY ALLOWANCES DUE TO COVID-19

## CHANGES TO ALCOHOL RULES AND CONCERNS

### Alcohol Deliveries and Curbside Pick-up
Licensees can make curbside and/or delivery sales of alcohol provided certain restrictions are met. Delivery of large quantities of alcohol, including bottles and growlers, is allowed.

- Concerns with fidelity of ID checks, especially of third-party delivery services

- Sales and delivery of large quantities allow for direct access of alcohol to youth

### Pre-Mixed Cocktails for Sale and Delivery
Restaurants with a Spirits, Beer, and Wine (S/B/W) license can sell pre-mixed alcoholic drinks for consumption off the licensed premises, provided certain restrictions are met.

- States that enforce open container laws have a lower incidence of drinking-while-driving.

- Anecdotal evidence in WA state suggests that people may be drinking cocktails-to-go while driving.

- Creates an environment that contributes to the perception that alcohol is harmless for youth

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11. National Liquor Law Enforcement Association, Best Practice Guidance for Alcohol Sales and Deliveries During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic. December 2020. [https://files.constantcontact.com/c1247982301/242bf27d-994c-4d0a-92a4-da9298e02b89.pdf](https://files.constantcontact.com/c1247982301/242bf27d-994c-4d0a-92a4-da9298e02b89.pdf)