



Ohio Senate
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Columbus, Ohio 43215
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Committees:

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Finance and Financial Institutions
Government Oversight
Insurance, Commerce and Labor

Bill Seitz
State Senator
8th District

May 29, 2009

Liz Klein, PhD, MPH
OSU College of Public Health
1841 Neil Ave
456 Cunz Hall
Columbus, OH 43210

Dear Dr. Klein,

I have read with interest the newspaper article about the study you conducted for ClearWay Minnesota. In that study you concluded that comprehensive indoor air act laws have no overall adverse economic effect on bars and restaurants. Many of my constituents have asked me to ask you why you chose to aggregate the data for NAICS codes 7221 (restaurants with liquor licenses) and 7224 (bars) in reaching the conclusions that you did.

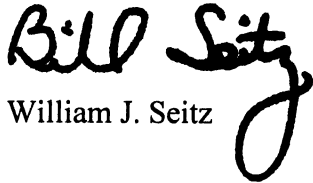
The reason why this is important is that other studies, notably by Adams/Cotti (2007) and Marlow (2000) chose to disaggregate that data to reach separate conclusions about how CIA policies affect free standing bars and restaurants with liquor licenses. Those studies concluded that the former are more negatively affected than the latter. Because you chose to aggregate the data, you may have reached a true but misleading conclusion—overall, there may be no negative effects but considered separately, there are undeniably negative, persistent effects on free standing bars.

Since you clearly had the disaggregated data (in order to present it in aggregated form, you had to add those numbers separately) you are clearly in a position to consider the issue separately. I request that you do so (or provide us with the raw disaggregated data so that we may do so). There are many reasons why this is an important issue for Ohio. First, we are considering legislation that would exempt bars but not restaurants from the Ohio law on the subject. Obviously, the economic effect of that question is not answered by studies that mix bars with liquor-licensed restaurants. Second, because your study did not report the number or percentage of establishments that were bars versus those that were restaurants, we cannot know whether the “mix” was representative of current conditions in the state of Ohio, particularly by geographic area. Disaggregated data for NAICS codes 7221 and 7224 would help on that question, too.

The Ohio State University has a justifiably enviable record of true scholarship, and service to our state and its policymakers. Its reputation cannot be sullied by accusations that its eminent scholars are playing "fast and loose" with the numbers. For these reasons, we ask that you provide your study data separately for codes 7221 and 7224, and let us know the number, percentage, and location of code 7221 businesses versus code 7224 businesses that you included in your study.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Seitz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "S" at the end.

William J. Seitz