

## **Allow Local Communities to Address Local Licensing Issues – Support SB2436**

The Small Business Advocacy Council (SBAC) and our coalition partners strongly support a common-sense amendment to The Liquor Control Act of 1934. This provision would grant authority to the local liquor control commissioner to give exemptions for businesses who wish to serve alcohol within 100 ft. of a churches, school, and other community establishments currently prohibited by state law. Every community is unique and faces different challenges, therefore, giving local government’s discretion over this standard is a practical solution to our current regulation.

Due to state law, business owners must contend with a long and exhausting procedure to apply for an exemption, even with the consent and support of the impacted institution, city council member and community leaders. Entrepreneurs must learn and expend resources to navigate the state process of introducing legislation and lobbying for support from not only their State Representative and Senator, but support from the whole General Assembly who must vote on the measure, before being signed into law by the Governor.

It’s time for the General Assembly to address this antiquated law not only hampers the ability to business to open in communities that would welcome them, but also forces legislators to spend time taking votes on issues unrelated to their district or constituents. Thus far, 75 business owners have received an exemption, but countless other have either failed to do so or never attempted because they did not have the necessary time, resources or knowledge about the process.

By localizing control of this issue, the local liquor control commissioner and local residents will be empowered to decide which businesses are good for their communities, rather than requiring legislators from all corners of the state deciding the fate of a business hundreds of miles away.

### **Coalition Members in Support**

*Small Business Advocacy Council  
(SBAC)*

*Lincoln Square Ravenswood Chamber  
of Commerce*

*Illinois Restaurant Association*

*Little Village Chamber of Commerce*

*Austin Chamber of Commerce*

*Lincoln Park Chamber of Commerce*

*Lakeview East Chamber of Commerce*

*Edgewater Chamber of Commerce*

*Lakeview Chamber of Commerce*

*Institute for Justice Clinic on  
Entrepreneurship*

*Illinois Chamber of Commerce*