

**Testimony in Support of HB996  
Alcoholic Beverages – Class A Licenses – Retail Grocery Establishments (Healthy  
Food Accountability Act of 2021  
February 19, 2021**

**To:** Hon. Derek Davis, Chair, and members of the House Economic Matters Committee  
**From:** Michael Wilson, Executive Assistant to the President  
United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Local 400

Chair Davis and members of the House Economic Matters Committee, I appreciate the chance to share my testimony on behalf of the over 25,000 members of United Food and Commercial Workers Locals 400 and 27 in Maryland, working on the front lines of the ongoing pandemic in grocery, retail, food distribution, food processing, law enforcement, and health care.

**We strongly support HB 996 and urge you to vote it favorably.** This bill will be a revenue generator for the state at a time when Maryland needs it and it will create hundreds of new, well paid, family supporting, union jobs.

Our economy needs a boost and expanding beer and wine sales to chain grocery stores, like Giant, Safeway, and Shoppers, where our members work, will help drive a much needed recovery and keep Maryland in a strong economic position going forward. This bill provides a real opportunity for the state to **create up to 300 full time jobs for our members.** These will be union jobs with family sustaining wages and benefits that will increase our tax base and strengthen our communities and our state for the long term.

It is time for Maryland to join neighboring states, and the District of Columbia, in allowing beer and wine sales in chain grocery stores. It will continue our economic recovery, generate revenue, and, most importantly, employ hundreds of residents in good, family sustaining jobs.

**UFCW Locals 27 and 400 urge a favorable vote on House Bill 996.**