



To: House Economic Matters Committee
From: Ellen Valentino
Date: February 16, 2022
RE: HB 661 Beverage Options with Children's Meals
Support with Amendment

MARYLAND'S LOCAL BEVERAGE COMPANIES RECOGNIZE THAT PARENTS ARE MORE THAN CAPABLE OF MAKING THE FOOD AND BEVERAGE CHOICES THAT ARE BEST FOR THEIR FAMILIES. WHEN IT COMES TO THEIR YOUNGEST CHILDREN, WE HAVE REPEATEDLY HEARD FROM PARENTS THAT THEY BELIEVE THAT WATER, MILK OR JUICE ARE THE BEST OPTIONS. HOWEVER, THEY ALSO WANT TO BE ABLE TO SELECT ANOTHER BEVERAGE AVAILABLE ON THE MENU, SUCH AS A SOFT DRINK, IF THEY CHOOSE.

THE LANGUAGE IN THE LEGISLATION AROUND DEFAULT DRINKS SHOULD BE AMENDED TO ALLOW FOR SPARKLING WATER; 8OZ SERVINGS OF JUICE; AND A COMBINATION OF WATER, FRUIT AND VEGETABLE JUICE.

AMENDMENT 1

Page 2, line 7 after "**WATER**" strike in entirety through line 8; insert "**, SPARKLING WATER OR FLAVORED WATER WITH NO NATURAL OR ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS;**"

Page 2, strike lines 9-12 in entirety; insert "**(2) FLAVORED OR UNFLAVORED NONFAT OR LOW-FAT DAIRY MILK OR NON-DAIRY BEVERAGE THAT IS NUTRITIONALLY EQUIVALENT TO FLUID MILK IN A SERVING SIZE OF 8 OUNCES OR LESS; OR**"

Page 2, line 13 strike "**6**" and substitute "**8**"; line 14 after "**VEGETABLE JUICE**" insert "**,**" and strike "**OR**"; line 15 after "**VEGETABLE JUICE**" strike "." and substitute "**, OR 100% FRUIT AND/OR VEGETABLE JUICE COMBINED WITH WATER OR SPARKLING WATER WITH NO ADDED NATURAL OR ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS.**"

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