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Keep Sydney Open

JS

Jack Stanovsek [↻ Reply all](#) | [⌵](#)To: Liquor Law Review; [⌵](#)

3:07 AM

Inbox

To whom it may concern,

I am a dual American-Australian citizen that has recently moved to Australia coming from a country (the United States) with little regulation in regards to drinking laws and culture. After being told all my life that by the age of 18 I was able to go war for the United States without being able to sit down and have a beer with friends, I've seen the effects of erroneous and nonlogical liquor laws on society both economically and socially. Socially, imposing an untenable drinking age on functioning adults forces them to drink behind closed doors, leading to an onslaught on physical harm, self-deprecation and increased risk of sexual assault. Economically, it shunts citizens away from nightlife and closes an important industry that provides jobs for the youth. Paradoxically, upon entering the drinking age in the United States there is little to no regulation in terms of standard drink labelling, deterrence of drink-driving offenses and proper staff training on responsible service of alcohol.

It is no wonder then that upon coming to Melbourne, Australia at the beginning of 2013, I began to see the wonderful effects of proper alcohol regulation governance on the economy and greater society. Letting teenagers consume alcohol at the age of 18 while many individuals are still living at home allows for them to develop a tolerance and know their limits. In turn, these more responsible adults are able to show patronage to the local community and bolster the economy. Additionally, the idea of standard drink labelling on all packages is a brilliant measure to ensure every citizen knows how much alcohol they have consumed and if they are right to drive.

The new liquor laws in Sydney sees Australia taking a step in the wrong direction. Clearly there is some wrongdoing and dark underworkings with these laws. As a student in Melbourne, I was able to enjoy late nights with friends, develop relationships, make memories, live within my generation's cultural expression and contribute positively to Melbourne's economy. While the liquor laws may seem to come from the position of public safety, at what cost are we willing to allow the decisions of a reckless few govern the every day (or night) operations of the general population? Surely there must be a better way to curb violence on the streets and allow Sydney to operate like any other major international city. The casino exemption seems all too ironic in a framework of 'public safety' when one considers their ideal patrons: preying on those susceptible to alcohol and gambling addiction in an attempt to extort more money out of an already endangered population instead of promoting moderation. The citizens are unhappy, the city has turned into a prime example of over-regulation gone horribly awry, businesses

have shut down and corruption is the air. Repeal these liquor laws and look for a more suitable alternative to punish defectors without unfair restriction on the public.

With best regards,

Jack Stanovsek

