

CLEAR Coalition: CLEAR coalition rejects Gov. Corbett's risky scheme to dismantle the PLCB.

Text of Jan. 30 press release.

HARRISBURG -- The CLEAR Coalition is urging lawmakers to reject Gov. Corbett's cynical political attempt to tie badly-needed funds for public schools to his risky scheme to dismantle the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board – a scheme that jeopardizes 5,000 family-sustaining jobs and more than \$500 million a year in revenue for the Commonwealth.

"Linking this issue to school funding is just another way to hold students hostage to the governor's political agenda. Our students shouldn't have to count on liquor being available on every corner in order to have properly funded schools," said Michael J. Crossey, President of the Pennsylvania State Education Association.

CLEAR represents more than 1.1 million working Pennsylvanians, including members of the United Food & Commercial Workers Union, which represents 3,500 men and women who work in the wine and spirits shops.

"The PLCB is a valuable public asset that should be strengthened so it can generate more revenue for our state," said Kathy Jellison, President of Service Employees International Union Local 668. Instead, this governor wants to turn it over to for profit entities in the same way he recently outsourced the lottery.

Lawmakers in both parties support common sense modernization proposals that would allow the PLCB to provide greater customer convenience and improve operations to generate more revenue for the state. These proposals included expanded Sunday hours and direct shipment of wine to consumers' homes.

"The governor needs to focus on serious challenges that our state confronts like transportation funding, stronger public education and making college more affordable for middle class Pennsylvanians," said Dave Fillman, Executive Director of AFSCME Council 13. "This is just bad public policy that should be rejected."

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