



March 24, 2023

The Honorable Randy McNally  
Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the Senate  
425 Rep. John Lewis Way North  
Cordell Hull Building, Suite 700  
Nashville, TN 37243

The Honorable Cameron Sexton  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
425 Rep. John Lewis Way North  
Cordell Hull Building, Suite 600  
Nashville, TN 37243

Dear Lieutenant Governor McNally and Speaker Sexton:

On behalf of the Hume-Fogg Association, the PTO for an academic magnet high school located in downtown Nashville, I am writing about Senate Bill 1327. Hume-Fogg is proud of its history as being Nashville's oldest public school and its location that attracts students from all over the city.

While I share the goal of many state legislators of reeling in what has become an out-of-control Lower Broadway, I have serious concerns about legislation that would reduce oversight of underage drinking laws in our neighborhood.

The proposed legislation lowers oversight by reducing the number of agencies charged with enforcing underage drinking laws and keeping our kids safe. Currently the Tennessee Alcohol and Beverage Commission and Metro Nashville Beer Board both have authority to enforce such laws. Stripping the Beer Board's authority would only make it less likely these laws would be enforced. I believe both agencies need to play a critical role to ensure underage drinking laws are enforced and that those who serve alcohol to minors are held accountable.

Maintaining some local oversight is important for at least two other reasons. First, it's much easier for concerned parents to call local officials who they know as friends and neighbors. Also, the school has a good track record of working with Metro on downtown issues. For example, Metro was very responsive on the issue of regulating transportation vehicles and unlicensed vendors, which has improved the learning environment for our students.

Thank you for considering these concerns and for the work you do. I value the opportunity my children have to learn in a vibrant urban environment, and want to ensure that the basic rule of law is maintained to keep them safe.

Sincerely,



Bob Bernstein,  
Hume-Fogg Association Board Member At-Large