

New York: Statement from Jeff Saunders, Founder Last Store on Main Street Coalition

Source: Jeff Saunders

Aug 20th

"Today's report by the State Liquor Authority - revealing a probe where nearly 60 percent of the investigated bodegas sold alcohol to minors- is proof that legalizing the sale of wine in 19,000 grocery stores, bodegas, delis and gas stations is a bad idea that would put teenagers at greater risk.

"Wine has three to four times more alcohol than beer and, given the choice, a Columbia University survey found teenagers are just as likely to pick wine as beer. That makes for an even more dangerous situation.

"Wine is not food, it is a controlled substance that needs to be kept out of the hands of minors and in state regulated wine stores. Governor Cuomo and the Legislature know the danger of WIGS, which is why they have rejected this dangerous idea year after year. Now it's time for the Big Box stores to recognize the error of their ways and stop putting corporate profits ahead of protecting our teens."