Dear Senator Brazeau:

RE: Support for Bill S-254, An Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act (warning label on alcoholic beverages)

The Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington (KFL&A) Board of Health is writing to express support for Bill S-254, An Act to Amend the Food and Drugs Act (warning label on alcoholic beverages). Mandated labels showing standard drink information, alcohol health guidance, and the link between alcohol and cancer will better inform consumers and support lower-risk alcohol use.

Bill S-254 aligns with the recent call for warning labels from the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction as part of the new Canadian Guidance on Alcohol and Health which recommends mandatory labelling of all alcoholic beverages with health warnings and Canada’s Guidance on Alcohol and Health. This recommendation comes from leading scientific experts in the field and is supported by Evidence-based Recommendations for Labelling Alcohol Products in Canada and Enhanced Alcohol Container Labels: A Systematic Review.

We know that many Canadians are unaware of the health risks associated with alcohol consumption and that the majority of Canadians support warning labels or health messages to increase awareness. We also know the important role that warning labels have played in tobacco control in Canada.

The KFL&A Board of Health believes that alcohol warning labels are an important component of a comprehensive alcohol strategy aimed at reducing the health and social harms of alcohol use in Canada. We urge fellow Senators to join you in calling on the Government of Canada to require, through legislation, mandatory labelling of all alcoholic beverages that includes the number of standard drinks in a container, the Guidance on Alcohol and Health, health warnings, and nutrition information.
Bill S-254, An Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act
May 29, 2023

The Senate plays a key role in introducing legislation to serve the best interests of Canadians and we urge fellow Senators to join you in calling on the Government of Canada to stop keeping Canadians in the dark about the risks of alcohol by supporting Bill S-254.

Sincerely,

[Wess Garrod's signature]

Wess Garrod, Chair
KFL&A Board of Health

Copy to: Sen. Hon. Donald Neil Plett, Leader of the Opposition
        Sen. Hon. Scott Tannas, Leader of the Canadian Senators Group
        Sen. Hon. Jane Cordy, Leader of the Progressive Senate Group
        Sen. Hon. Marc Gold, Government Representative in the Senate
        Hon. Jean-Yves Duclos, Federal Minister of Health
        Hon. Carolyn Bennett, Federal Minister of Mental Health & Addictions
        Mark Gerretsen, MP, Kingston and the Islands
        Shelby Kramp-Neuman, MP, Hastings – Lennox and Addington
        Scott Reid, MP, Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston
        Ric Bresee, MPP, Hastings-Lennox and Addington
        Ted Hsu, MPP, Kingston and the Islands
        John Jordan, MPP, Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston
        Association of Local Public Health Agencies
        Ontario Boards of Health