



[This is a copy of a letter originally sent via email.]

Date: Oct. 15, 2025

To: Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology

Subject: Support for Bill S-202, An Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act (warning label on alcoholic beverages)

Dear Clerk of the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology,

Re. Warning labels on alcohol

I am writing today to urge you to support S-202, *An Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act (warning label on alcoholic beverages)*.

This bill is about one simple thing: the right to know.

Canadians deserve to know the health risks associated with the products they consume.

Let's be clear:

- Since 1988, alcohol has been classified as a [Group 1 carcinogen \(cancer-causing substance\)](#).
- Alcohol consumption increases your risk of developing at least [7 different types of cancers](#).
- Consumption of alcohol is causally related to over [200 health conditions and diseases](#) like liver cirrhosis, alcohol use disorder, cardiovascular disease, and neonatal disorders.
- Canada currently runs an alcohol harms deficit of about [\\$6.4 billion annually](#).
- Alcohol is responsible for over [800,000 emergency room and hospital visits and 18,000 deaths](#) across Canada every year.
- [1 in 20 births](#) have Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder from prenatal alcohol use in Canada.

Despite this, the alcohol industry will do everything in its power to muddy the waters, discredit science, and protect its profits just like tobacco companies have done for decades.

They'll lobby you hard. They'll spin. They'll try to make you believe that warning labels are "too much."

Canadians have a right to know when the products they buy can cause them harm.

I encourage you to be bold, to stand on the side of public health, and support the passage of S-202.

RNAO urges the members of the Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology to advance Bill S-202 without delay. Clear, evidence-based warning labels on alcohol are an essential step in informing Canadians of the serious health risks they face and in reducing preventable harms. Nurses witness first-hand the consequences of alcohol consumption in our hospitals, clinics, and communities, and we know the toll it takes on individuals, families, and the health system. We thank you for your leadership in studying this bill and reaffirm our commitment to working with you and other decision-makers to safeguard the health of Canadians.

Yours truly,

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