

My name is Trudy Eide and I am writing in support of ND Senate Bill 2153

Twenty-five years ago, my family began a tradition of going to a restaurant for dinner on Christmas Eve. Our family regularly attends a 3:30 Christmas Eve church service and we enjoy going out to eat so that we have time to open presents before I need to return to participate in a 10:00 p.m. service. Initially, we only found one restaurant open—Red Lobster. Since then, more and more restaurants have opened up.

Even though we eat early, it still means that very often we can only enjoy one alcoholic beverage with our meal, because of the law which prohibits alcohol to be served after 6:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Having to rush to dinner before 5:00 just to have a couple of glasses of wine seems a bit ridiculous and not relaxing. Our experience a year ago where our drinks were late in being served was very frustrating, because the waiter removed all alcohol from the table at 6:00 even though some glasses were still more than half full. This prompted me to mention to Senator Merrill Piepkorn that I thought this law was outdated and needed to be changed.

As I mentioned earlier, there are now many places open for dinner on Christmas Eve; traditions and celebrations have changed. Families may no longer live close by and get-togethers are not always on the 24th or 25th. Perhaps a meal out is a good alternative to being alone. It is important to also keep in mind that we live in a society where not everyone celebrates Christmas.

This law was previously amended so that alcohol could be served starting at 11:00 instead of noon on Sundays. Just as that accommodation was made, I feel that the Christmas Eve portion should also be amended. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Trudy Eide