



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**AX THE TAX COALITION APPLAUDS INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION ON BEVERAGE TAX, CALLS FOR FURTHER ACTION AND IMMEDIATE REPEAL**

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The Ax the Bev Tax Coalition has issued the following statement in response to the legislation introduced today concerning the beverage tax:

*“We appreciate that these councilmembers recognize that the beverage tax is a harmful policy. However, we don’t need a study to know that the tax hurts working families across Philadelphia and should be repealed. This tax has cost hundreds of jobs and caused the closure of one West Philadelphia grocery store – which closed its doors for the final time this morning.*”

*“The tax was corrupt in its very creation – passed as part of a revenge plot by one union against another. Philadelphians deserve more from their elected officials. It is time for City Council to do the right thing. The city has plenty of money in its \$368 million surplus and needs to find another way to fund important programs like Pre-K and parks and recreation centers.”*

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*The Ax the Bev Tax Coalition is a partnership between Philadelphia families and businesses negatively impacted by the city’s new regressive beverage tax. For more information visit [www.axthebevtax.com](http://www.axthebevtax.com).*