



**Contact:** Anthony Campisi  
(215) 735-6760  
[Anthony@Ceislermedia.com](mailto:Anthony@Ceislermedia.com)

### **ICYMI: Philadelphia families and businesses feeling beverage tax pain**

As Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney celebrates money coming in from his new beverage tax, he is ignoring the pain his policies are causing to Philadelphia families and businesses. We would like to highlight the following voices, who have described to our coalition and to news outlets in recent weeks how the tax is impacting working families and local businesses:

- “This tax threatens the progress we have made in improving access to groceries in Philadelphia’s working and lower-income communities,” said Jeff Brown, president and CEO of Brown’s Super Stores Inc., which operates six supermarkets in the region. “Since this tax has gone into effect, stores in Philadelphia have seen steep declines in sales. This tax makes it much more difficult to continue opening supermarkets in food deserts.”
- “This tax has been devastating on stores like ours, which operate in neighborhoods that are very close to the suburbs,” said Sean McMenemy, president of McMenemy Family ShopRites, which owns two supermarkets in the Far Northeast. “Since the tax was put into effect, our customers have started shopping outside the city. This campaign will help us get the message out about the damage this tax is inflicting on Philadelphia families and businesses.”
- “Our business is challenging enough, and now this tax has caused the price of syrup to almost double,” said Andy Pincus, who owns Carbonator Rental Service, a Southwest Philadelphia company that sells syrup and carbon dioxide and rents beverage equipment to area restaurants. “Since the tax, my sales in the city have plummeted, and I’m afraid I may have to lay off some of my employees.”
- “This tax is having a devastating impact on our employees, customers and the communities they serve,” said local bottler Bob Brockway, president of Canada Dry Delaware Valley Corp. “No one wants tell a hardworking mom or dad whose paycheck is supporting their family that their income is being cut or even worse, their job is going away. Pre-k is important for our city, but there has got to be a better way to fund it without hurting so many people.”
- “Philadelphia, a city known for its distinct cuisine from Philly cheese steaks to authentic Italian, has been experiencing an ongoing restaurant renaissance,” said John Longstreet, president and CEO of the Pennsylvania Restaurant and Lodging Association, which represents over 300 establishments in Philadelphia. “Restaurants operate on low margins and this tax has hurt thousands of them by making it even more difficult to provide the service and experience the citizens and visitors of Philadelphia deserve and expect. This new education campaign will highlight the pain felt by diners and restaurants because of this tax.”

- “Most of our ticket revenue goes to Hollywood studios,” said Gina DiSanto, president of the National Association of Theater Owners of Pennsylvania. “We rely on concession sales for profitability and this tax is making it even more difficult to operate in the city and provide entertainment to Philadelphia families.”
- “From Jan. 1, it’s been completely dead,” said Mohammad Alqtaishat, owner at Roxborough’s M&M Market. “I’m not making money at all.”
- "My son graduates high school in a couple months, and I have had to go to him and say, 'Son, your first choice of Drexel University is no longer an option,'" said John Carpineta, who works as a salesman for Coca-Cola and lives in Holmesburg.