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## Lid it or Leave it

Spiked drinks are a severe and depressing issue that plagues unsuspecting, vulnerable victims far too often. The reality is that an open drink is an easy target for those with malicious intentions. Simply holding or covering your drink is not protective enough in crowded, overstimulating environments, especially to those who are intoxicated and thus less aware of their surroundings. Furthermore, a fun night out should not involve constant worry and anxiety about being assaulted. Providing lids is a simple solution that has the potential to save many lives or livelihoods. Furthermore, it can be accomplished without any major financial burden. The “lid it or leave it bill” is a common-sense bill that should not be held back by partisan bickering. In fact, this July, the state of California implemented a similar bill, and its passage was relatively seamless. Massachusetts is working towards the same law, and it has been received well. This idea seems to be received well by all who hear it, and the only possible hiccups are in the implementation and specifics. One potential issue with the bill is its particularly short deadline before it goes into effect. However, the bill does not put any significant major strain on anybody. The only possibly time-consuming aspect is the delivery, but, barring ridiculous one-off scenarios, three months ought to be plenty of time. Admittedly, there is the potential for some rural bar being punished because the delivery and implementation of the bill took longer than three months. However, this reason is certainly not nearly strong enough to prevent this bill from

being heard on the floor. Those issues could almost certainly be avoided through basic communication. As far as the specifics around the financial implication of the bills, Companies can purchase 1000 lids for around \$36 from Uline. This boils down to 3.6 cents per cup. Applying the bill's prohibition of marking up the price past 50%, the most bars can sell these lids for is 7 cents. This is low enough for the average person to justify purchasing in the name of caution. In summary, this bill is common sense and versions have already been implemented in other states. It places no real financial burden on anyone at any level. Most importantly, it is a simple but effective way to combat rape in places that are hotspots for such atrocities.