



Chairman Anthony Brown and Commerce Committee,

I come before you today as the Executive Director of Culture Shield Network. Culture Shield exist to inform>connect>mobilize churches across Kansas to engage in their culture. In addition I am the National Day of Prayer Director for Kansas. We are connected with hundreds of churches in Kansas, with most major denominations listening to our updates. We communicate through radio, workshops and action alert e-mails. We network with all existing pro-family organizations. The church will not sit this one out.

Last year I testified against this bill and my reasons have not changed. What has changed is the audacity of "Uncork Kansas." It conjures up visions of free flowing liquor. In Kansas we have struck the fair balance by not selling hard liquor in our grocery stores and convenience stores. If an adult wants hard liquor they go to a liquor store where they are issued one license per person, and must live in the state of Kansas. This would open multiple licenses, where now we are regulated by one license per person and the corporations out of state would benefit, not the family owned businesses of Kansas.

Do we really want Mom to go to the store to buy milk, bread and gin? Let's say that a young Mom with toddlers had a drinking problem in college. She wouldn't think of going to bars or walking into a liquor store, but does go to the grocery store 2-3 times per week.

1. First and foremost this will only increase access of hard liquor to minors. Reducing the age to sell alcohol from 21 to 18 is dangerous. Peer pressure could persuade illegal exchanges.
2. This can only result in increased alcoholism among minors in our state. A study done by Kansas Department of Rehabilitation referenced Sweden when they began selling hard liquor in convenience stores; the results were an increase of 37.4% in consumption.
3. This can only result in increased juvenile crime.
4. The state has always had a bright line between the distribution and regulation of malt beverages and wine and hard liquor; and for good reason.

Researchers at Kansas University have said that 341 of the Kansas liquor stores would go out of business if this Bill became law. This Bill would take these 766 locations where liquor is currently sold and increase them to over 3,000 locations. Do we want greater liquor distribution and consumption; big-box liquor stores?

Finally, a few months ago I traveled with friends to Texas to visit a funeral home that took care of the charred bodies of their son, daughter in law, and two grandchildren. You see, they were in a hummer, but a drunk driver at 6 a.m. on a Sunday morning came charging down a four lane highway the wrong way. Even the loss of one life is worth more than what these corporations would stand to make.

Donna Lippoldt – Executive Director of Culture Shield Network

House Commerce & Economic Development

*Touch Heaven Impact Fair*

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