



Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists
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February 7, 2012

Attn: Kansas Legislators

RE: "Hard Liquor" sales in grocery stores

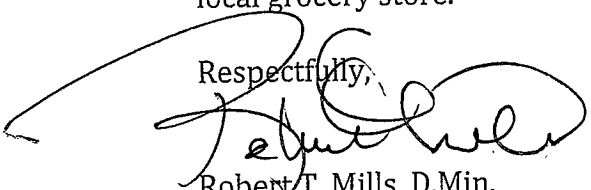
Southern Baptist churches in Kansas regularly deal with the tragedies related to alcohol abuse. We minister to families who have lost loved ones in a drunk-driving accident. We deal with families struggling with the presence of one or more members whose lives are being destroyed by alcohol abuse. We deal with individuals who are themselves being destroyed by alcohol abuse. We deal with teenagers who are pressured by their peers to experiment with alcohol.

Alcohol is already too easy to obtain in our culture, but putting "hard liquor" in the setting of the family grocery store adds yet another layer for the possibility of abuse. The idea of grocery stores selling "hard liquor" is particularly distressing because families with small children frequent these stores, but they do not frequent liquor stores. Teenagers also shop in these stores, but they don't enter liquor stores. The presence of these more intoxicating beverages in that context ramps up the temptation factor.

We pay a terrible price for abusive drinking in our culture already. "Hard liquor" in grocery stores will only make it easier to obtain these beverages and risk expanding this problem. Youth who are not old enough to buy liquor will have abundant new sources to try fake Id's, find friends to buy for them, or shoplift.

It is our fervent prayer that you will reject this attempt to extend the availability of more intoxicating beverages into what should remain a family-friendly context, the local grocery store.

Respectfully,



Robert T. Mills, D.Min.

Executive Director

Kansas-Nebraska Convention of Southern Baptists

RM/pd

House Commerce & Economic Development

Sharing • Starting • Strengthening • Serving Date: 02/08/12

Attachment #: 19