

Chairman Les Mason:

Members of the House Commerce, Labor and Economics Committee

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I am Legislative director for the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

I am here in opposition to HB 2282. It is pretty obvious that the proponents see this bill as a stepping stone to make liquor stores out of our grocery stores. They will keep at this yearly until they accomplish their goal of full blown liquor stores. I will do what I can to thwart that objective.

We have been going over these reasons yearly but because there are new people on the committee we need to review them.

More outlets mean more consumption. Making strong beer and wine available at the grocery stores would have that effect. We do not need more consumption of alcohol. You all are aware of the traffic fatalities and injuries. Someone you know has probably been a victim. That alone, should be a deterrent to having more outlets for alcohol.

More research is proving that there is a correlation between alcohol and cancer. From the UK comes this statistic: *In the United Kingdom, approximately 12,800 alcohol-related cancer cases occur each year, including cancers of the mouth, throat, pharynx, and larynx; esophageal cancer; breast cancer in women; liver cancer; and bowel cancer*² What is happening in the United Kingdom is also happening in the United States. A report published several years ago shows that alcohol-linked cancer deaths can be blamed for nearly 20,000 deaths a year in the United States. Dr. Timothy Naimi of the Boston University Schools of Medicine said, "For drinkers, it shows that when it comes to cancer, the less you drink, the better." You do not need to be a heavy drinker to have an effect. Now, my question to you legislators, would you want to make smoking more accessible? I imagine the resounding answer to that would be, NO. Then, why would you want to make alcohol more accessible when it has been a proven cancer related product? . I urge you to please vote "NO" on HB 2282.

In closing, I would like to say I have been a customer of Dillons probably longer than anyone in this room. I started shopping at Dillons in Great Bend in 1952 – that would be over 64 years. I would really hate to see the owners of Dillons make their good stores into carcinogen outlets