



835 SW Topeka Blvd.  
Topeka, KS 66612  
785.357.6321

**Testimony before House Commerce Committee**  
**Proponent: HB 2282**  
**Eric Stafford, Vice President of Government Affairs**

Mister Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Eric Stafford and I am the Vice President of Government Affairs for the Kansas Chamber of Commerce. I appreciate the opportunity to submit written remarks in support of House Bill 2282, which concerns the Kansas liquor control act and retailer's licenses.

HB 2282 levels the playing field by lifting government restrictions, so that grocery and convenience stores can sell full-strength beer and wine. Our existing liquor laws need updating to conform to current consumer demands and expectations.

Currently, it is the small Mom-and-Pop operations hurt the most because for too long the government has wrongfully picked "winners and losers." They don't have a level playing field and are restricted from selling legal products. This discrepancy is robbing them of revenue. By equaling the playing field, Kansas becomes a much more attractive state for businesses to invest in.

HB 2282 allows full-strength beer and wine at grocery stores and convenience stores, which maintains exclusive access of liquor to liquor stores, a fair compromise in our view. From the data we have seen from other states, independent liquor stores continue to flourish in this competitive environment.

The Chamber supports HB 2282 because it reduces outdated government regulations on the sale of full-strength beer and wine for grocery and convenience stores. HB 2282 creates a more level playing field, and an environment where all business, large and small, play by the same rules.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written remarks in support of HB 2282.



*"...to continually strive to improve the economic climate for the benefit of every business and citizen and to safeguard our system of free, competitive enterprise".*