



February 13, 2017

Testimony in Support of HB 2282

Mr. Chairman and Honorable Members of the Commerce Committee,

On behalf of thousands of Americans for Prosperity activists across Kansas, we strongly urge the committee to integrate free market principles into the sale of legal adult beverages.

Kansans know the key to improved economic prosperity is less government restriction. We also know that picking winners and losers in the marketplace is not in the best interest of consumers or the economy as a whole.

Current liquor laws have picked a winner: liquor stores. For years, they have held the exclusive right to all retail alcohol sales in Kansas. While they enjoy their monopoly, large areas of the state are also losing sales, and sales tax revenue, across the border for the same product. More importantly, individual consumers are being inconvenienced for no reason other than the protection of a select group of businesses.

It's irresponsible for Kansas legislators to continue to support an onerous government regulation that favors one type of business over another, prevents your constituents from having a choice in the marketplace, and deprives the state of tax revenue.

A majority of states allow their people to choose where to buy beer, wine, and spirits. It's a model that works very well.

I urge your support of HB 2282. It is sound legislation that does what Kansans have asked of you to do – adopt sensible laws without unnecessary government intrusion.

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