

February 14, 2017

Chairman Les Mason and Members of the House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee:

My name is Cyndi Russell, I am a 45 year old woman, mother of 5 children and a long-time Kansas resident. I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 2282, which would allow grocery stores, super stores and Convenient Stores to sell high alcohol-content beer and wine.

I am opposed to this bill for a number of reasons. One because it will take revenue away from locally owned and operated liquor stores. Business that they require for the success of their stores and for the livelihood of their families. Business that grocery stores, super stores and convenient stores have been thriving without for years and don't need for their respective success.

Another reason is the fact that the bill will allow "children" under the legal drinking age to handle and sell alcoholic beverages. As a mother, it is disturbing to me that instead of helping minimize the access to alcohol this will only add to the temptation and allurements of under-age drinking. Personally, I would rather see more discouragement and prevention of minors handling alcohol sales.

I enjoy the selection and personal experience when shopping for libations at my neighborhood liquor store. There's no need to add more competition to an already highly competitive market.

I will not support a bill that blatantly aspires to put small businesses out of commission, a bill that endangers minors by placing alcohol directly in their hands and a bill that attempts to take away my right to grocery shop without being distracted by alcoholic beverages.

*Sincerely,
Cyndi Russell
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