

House Commerce Committee
Feb. 12, 2015
HB 2200

Thank you for allowing me to speak to you regarding HB2200 and the affects it will have on KS liquor store business and economics.

As a customer, I do not favor passing a bill to change the laws to benefit big businesses over the family owned liquor stores. The corporations have a big enough piece of the retail pie today.

I put together some numbers to create a picture. To my understanding, HB 2200 could cause the closing of up to half of the 750 Kansas owned small businesses that sell retail liquor. If those stores employ 6 people on average, it could put 3000 employees out of work. If every store has an average budget of \$250,000, it takes over \$63,000,000 out of Kansas. Will this bill open new business? This bill looks to shift the business from existing small business to large corporations.

The corporations are promising new jobs, but corporate grocery stores require the vendors to maintain inventory on the shelves, not the employee of the grocery store. This is to keep the number of employees to a limit. The responsibility is placed with the vendor. Not employing more people.

A big percent of large grocery stores are open 24/7 days a week. Will there be a gate to close the aisle that beer and wine will be on? They are not now on the beer aisles, leaving 24 hour access. Shoplifters benefit. They just have to make it off the side walk at the doors into the parking lot. As I understand it, it is common grocery policy to not chase shoplifters into the parking lot.

Do we really want to make alcohol easier to obtain? Are we ready for the rise of under age drinking? Are we socially prepared to handle the increase in alcoholism? There are reasons to regulate alcohol and the liquor store is a good place to do it.

There is talk about "Free Market". Free market is defined here http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_market. The highlights, prices for goods and services are set freely by consent between sellers and consumers, in which the laws and forces of supply and demand are free from any intervention by a government, price-setting monopoly, or other authority. Prices for goods and services are set freely by the forces of supply and demand and are allowed to reach their point of equilibrium without intervention by government policy.

Please don't let this bill move forward.

Sincerely

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