

TESTIMONY

TO: The Honorable Steve Brunk, Chair and
Members of the House Committee on Federal and State Affairs

FROM: Doug Mays
On behalf of Ice and Olives, Sandi Wilber, Proprietor

RE: SB 269, amendments to K.S.A. 41-2623(a), and K.S.A. 41-311(a)

DATE: March 8, 2012

Good afternoon Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I come before you, today, to offer an amendment to SB 269, or any other germane bill of your choosing. The amendment does not affect the base bill itself. Rather, it corrects an anomaly in this state's liquor statutes that any objective assessment would find outdated and unfair.

A Topeka deli and coffee shop proprietor, Sandy Wilbur, brought to my attention a quirk in Kansas liquor statutes that has caused a problem for her and her business. Put simply, virtually any coffee shop owner in Kansas meeting basic regulatory requirements can obtain a license to serve beer and wine in their place of business. Anyone, that is, unless their spouse happens to own a liquor store.

Ms. Wilber's husband does happen to own a liquor store. And in spite of the fact that both Ms. Wilber and her husband share no ownership in each other's business, she is cannot follow her business plan because of her husband's choice of occupations.

The fact is, in the context of the times in which we live, Ms. Wilber has been barred from doing what other identical businesses right here in Topeka and across the state are allowed to do, entirely because she is married.

The existing statutory language is from a time when women rarely pursued any business enterprise and were, in most cases, considered an extension of their husband.

Times have changed.

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee I urge you to adopt an amendment to remove this archaic and discriminatory language.

House Federal & State Affairs

Date: 3-08-12

Attachment #

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