

March 5, 2013

Dear Chairman Kleeb and fellow committee members,

Thank you for your diligence in dealing with issues that affect us all. We appreciate your time and effort to protect the citizens of Kansas.

As a concerned mother and grandmother, I appeal to you to seriously consider the affect of allowing more stores to sell liquor, wine, and strong beer. Our State has had a good moral fiber, in part because of its stricter liquor laws. It saddens me to watch that gradually decay. We all know the social problems that naturally go along with consumption of alcohol, and now you are faced with the decision of what is right for the citizens of our State.

My paternal great grandparents and their children settled in Western Kansas years ago rather than going on to Colorado because Kansas was a "dry state," and they did not want their five sons to grow up in an area where liquor was more freely accessible. I am very grateful they chose this great State in which to make their home. They left us a rich heritage.

My maternal grandfather on the other hand was an alcoholic, and my mother grew up with all of the hurt that comes from living in that type of home. She knew what it was like not to have food in the cupboard because the paycheck was spent on alcohol. It was not until after my grandfather lost his 15-year-old son in a motorcycle accident that he chose to stop drinking. His life changed, but it came as a result of great loss.

There is really "nothing new under the sun." People are people. Right is right, and wrong is wrong. Some people call our liquor laws antiquated. One has to ask, "Is it 'antiquated' to want to give our children and grandchildren a safe place to live? Placing harmful influences in front of them is not responsible parenting. Most parents would not take their children or grandchildren to a bar or liquor store, but allowing our grocery stores to sell strong liquor is placing a "stumbling block" in their paths. It sends them a message that there is no difference between a soft drink and hard liquor.

There's an old adage that says, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." Our current liquor laws are not "broken." They don't need to be "fixed." As responsible legislators, I implore you to vote NO and oppose HB 2206 to protect the future of our children, grandchildren and all of the citizen of this great State of Kansas.

Again, thank you for your diligent work.

Sincerely,

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