

Opponent: HB 2206

March 5, 2013

Dear Chairman Kleeb and fellow committee members,

Thank you for all of your efforts at the Capitol on our behalf. Before you is an issue of grave concern to many in our community and across Kansas. Our family is concerned about this issue as well.

Expanding the outlets where one can purchase hard liquor is a serious matter. Making liquor more easily accessible should not be a lawmaker's goal, but keeping the substance well regulated should be. Adults are currently not restricted from purchasing liquor if they so choose. They are free to go to any liquor store to purchase what they please. However, placing liquor so readily in front of every consumer of other goods, whether it be at a convenience store or a grocery store, is an affront to those who choose to avoid liquor.

Placing liquor in stores where everyone shops would cause minors to be more exposed to alcohol. Our society tries to teach teens to be responsible when it comes to alcohol, and our laws prohibit selling to minors. While there is a certain stigma associated with parking in front of a liquor store and going in to purchase alcohol, there is certainly no stigma in going to a grocery store to buy groceries. If we remove that slight hindrance to teens, or anyone for that matter, we make purchasing alcohol more acceptable -- a normal part of a shopping trip. We have six children. We frequently take them to shop for groceries, and our teenagers love to grab a pop and a candy bar at the convenience store. We don't want our children to think that purchasing alcohol is a normal part of a grocery run, nor do we want them exposed to it.

Making alcohol more convenient to purchase is something that needs to be a serious consideration, because alcohol is obviously not like any other beverage. Alcohol impairs judgment, and causes people to do things they otherwise might not do, if not under its influence. Think of the list of the many crimes associated with one who is drunk, from drunk driving to murder. Easier access to liquor would increase crimes of any nature, and alcohol consumption is sure to increase if this bill is passed. Convenience for the consumer of liquor pales in comparison to the long list of problems making it more accessible would cause.

The businesses behind the Uncorked bill are not interested in the consumer's welfare. They are interested in the consumer's dollar. Surely you see this clearly.

Thank you for taking the time to read our concerns. If passed, this will not be undone. Please consider very carefully, for the safety and well being of your constituents, the weighty matter before you. Please vote no to oppose this bill. It affects us all.

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