



Our intent and purpose for this testimony is a concern for the citizens of Kansas who struggle with alcohol addictions. Citizens who struggle with addiction will be faced with it on a daily basis. All it takes is temptation for overcoming alcoholics to weaken. Why subject our citizens who struggle with this temptation to have to face it everyday? Think of how often we go into the grocery store or buy gas each week. They have the discipline never to walk into a liquor store; it's nearly impossible to avoid convenience and grocery stores. Customers who are wanting the strong beer or wine need only to walk across the street or next door in most cases to buy their wine or strong beer.

In the past the lobbyist for Dillon's, Quick Trip, and the big box stores have written bills for all hard liquor to be sold in their stores. If this bill passes, rest assured the lobbyist who are highly paid, whether you pass it or not, will be back wanting more, meaning spirits. Dillon's admits it's all about the money. I've spoken to the manager of the one closest to me. They don't seem to care about the fall out of our culture. Culture Shield does.

Our present liquor stores know who their customers are. They are highly regulated. Imagine going from 760 liquor stores to over 2,500 costing taxpayers more money. At a time when Kansas needs to cut government spending it would increase the department of Revenue, the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control. They are already understaffed to complete their current duties.

I personally have close friends who lost their son, daughter in law and all their children at 6 a.m. in the morning as a drunk driver drove down the wrong side of a highway. Is it worth it? Do we want to be culpable in causing Kansas's families that kind of pain? He was killed, but also four innocent victims lost their lives at a very young age.

Underage youth, 18 years of age, not even old enough to legally drink will be stocking shelves, handling and selling strong beer and wine. This bill would change the age of those working in liquor stores handling all spirits. Instead of 21-year age limit, teenagers at the age of 18 would be allowed. Imagine the temptation for them to get some for their friends.

Culture Shield represents hundreds of churches across Kansas. We have worked with them for over 9 years to have one voice. We have testified every year. These churches represent thousands of Kansans who say NO to HB 2282.

**Keep this in the liquor stores.
For the sake of the children,
Donna Lippoldt – Director of Culture Shield Network
www.cultureshield.com 316-516-0777 donna@cultureshield.com**