

Mr. Chairman Hutton,
Members of the Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee.
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National Woman's Christian Temperance Union Legislative Director.

I am here in opposition to HB 2200 for some very valid reasons. Last year one of your committee members asked if I had any research to indicate that the more locations would lead to more consumption. I did have and I have made copies for this committee. To briefly summarize:

Research from the Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth (CAMY) from John Hopkins :
Regulating the number of physical locations in which alcoholic beverages are available for purchase in a geographic area, is an effective strategy for reducing excessive alcohol consumption and associated harms.

Making hard liquor available in grocery stores is hard for a recovering alcoholic to avoid. They realize they should not go in – or maybe even pass by – a liquor store but the grocery store can be a necessity. Youth will be harder to control in a big grocery store as opposed to a liquor store where they would obviously stand out.

I had a State Representative tell me that he thought it was a matter of equal playing fields to let grocery store sell hard liquor. He is forgetting that liquor is a controlled substance. You cannot sell just anything in a grocery store – try selling firecrackers! One pharmacy touts that they do not sell cigarettes because of the health issue. However, they advertise and sell the alcohol products that are legal for pharmacies to sell. From the United Kingdom comes the information on the connection between alcohol and cancer. *“And it isn't just a risk for heavy drinkers; regularly drinking alcohol puts you at greater risk of seven different types of cancer, including breast and mouth cancer”* There are so many diseases that are effected by alcohol usage. This doesn't even take into account all the traffic accidents that are committed because of alcohol.

I find myself in a unique situation with the liquor dealers and myself on the same side of this issue. And I tried to think of some way to out-do Tuck Duncan - but I came up empty. I go back to what I did another time. **Selling alcohol is NOT like selling lettuce! Please keep in mind the research on more outlets means more consumption of this killer product!**