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To the House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee:

Every year I have testified against the expansion of hard liquor outlets in the state of Kansas. I represent churches, Pastors and citizen's as Culture Shield is a statewide organization. As a lifelong citizen of Kansas it is chilling to see the encroachment of lobbyist coming into Kansas that would result in the loss of jobs and revenue for our citizens. Most of the existing liquor stores are family owned and highly regulated. No underage workers are hired. It's our belief that Kroger, HyVee, Quick Trip would all be taking profits to their corporate home offices, rather than Kansas. These stores would have no need to hire additional staff, but hundreds of Kansans would lose their jobs. **HB 2200 would allow 18 year olds to stock and sell hard liquor. The temptation is evident for underage drinking**

There are enormous casualties that would result from the expansion of selling alcohol and making it so accessible to our at risk citizens. **Many who have struggled with this addiction and would not think of walking into a liquor store again, would be faced several times a week with the temptation.**

Connection of alcohol outlets and violence:

Neighborhoods where bars, restaurants and liquor and other stores that sell alcohol are close together suffer more frequent incidences of violence and other alcohol-related problems, according to recent research by the Prevention Research Center and others. The strong connection between alcohol and violence has been clear for a long time – but now we know that this connection also relates to the location of places that sell alcohol. <http://resources.prev.org/documents/AlcoholViolenceGruenewald.pdf>

The citizens of Kansas expect the legislature to protect our family friendly state. **Regulation at the present level would be cost prohibitive. How many additional staff would have to be hired to inspect all the additional outlets?**

If anyone would say that selling hard liquor in grocery stores and convenience stores would help commerce in Kansas must not understand our current value system. Being a state where people move to, in order to raise a family with strong morals, is where we want to be.

Please do not let this bill out of committee and put Kansas citizens at risk for increased drunk driving accidents as well as expansion of alcoholism. Our children are worth keeping Kansas regulated at the present level.

Thank you,
Donna Lippoldt
Founder of Culture Shield Network