



I would like to ask the question how many of you on this committee have called the breweries to question them about whether or not they have or ever even thought of stopping the production of 3.2 beers? Culture Shield began making those calls on Wednesday. All answers came back negative.

“Expanding liquor sales to grocery and convenience stores probably wouldn’t have much effect on adults in Kansas, but it could increase youth drinking and associated problems, according to an analysis by the Kansas Health Institute... allowing convenience stores to sell full-strength beer and grocery stores to sell wine ...” (CJOnline 6.28.14)

There is very good reason why the Senate voted to stop “hard beer” from being sold in grocery stores. “Voting 26-11, senators turned down a floor amendment that would have allowed the chain stores to sell full-strength beer. Under current law, they can sell only beer and coolers with a maximum alcohol content of 3.2 percent.” (Wichita Eagle May 14, 2015)

Uncork Kansas, a coalition including Dillon’s, Hy-Vee and other chains, has pushed hard to bring a bill to the floor to allow their stores to sell hard liquor and wine as well as beer. Read more here:

<http://www.kansas.com/news/politics-government/article21028947.html#storylink=cpy>

Our own Kansas Health Institute says, “Increased youth consumption, could result in more alcohol-related traffic deaths and STDs for this population.” - See more at:

<http://www.khi.org/policy/article/potential-health-effects-expanding-liquor-licenses#sthash.hQpcGh5f.dpuf>

This study by the Kansas Health Institute, and the vote of our Senate shows that this is not wise. Culture Shield believes this is just another attempt to slide into the very profitable increase of revenue of the very businesses that families participate in daily in Kansas and it’s not appreciated by our family friendly state. Last but certainly not least I would like to address the fact that 18 year olds would be stocking, handling, and SELLING these alcoholic beverages. As most of you know, boys and girls of that age frequently give into peer pressure. Following the rules many times is an afterthought. Even one mistake could take the life of one of our most precious citizens. Please do not start Kansas down this slippery slope into life threatening accidents, addictions, or behavior that could lead to a moral lack of judgment. Culture Shield is asking you to stop this bill. Thank you for your time.

Very sincerely,

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