



Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association

Testimony Supporting House Bill 2223

March 24, 2015

On behalf of the Kansas Restaurant & Hospitality Association, thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony on House Bill 2223. The KRHA stands in strong support of this legislation.

The Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association represents members who employ over 137,000 Kansans. We are one of the primary tax collectors for the state, collecting more than \$424 million as an industry. A well functioning regulatory program is vitally important to our members

HB 2223 clarifies the existing statutes regarding the serving of a mixed drink. While we have been of the opinion for years a mixed drink included a pre-mixed drink such as a “margarita” or a “stoli doli” the Kansas ABC has expressed concerns. Clarifying this issue will allow our members to meet the marketplace demands and serve these drinks.

The bill also seeks to streamline the licensed catering notification requirements. The underlying statute was passed over 15 years ago several of the requirements can now be managed more effectively given the advent of Internet based technology. The ABC has a desire to receive notice of an upcoming event in order to police it at their discretion. The industry has a need to accommodate last minute client requests to add alcoholic beverages to an upcoming catered event. The existing law essentially placed an administrative barrier between a caterer and their clients and actually encouraged non-compliance. By providing notice and not administrative approval, both of these objectives can be better accomplished.

The industry and the Kansas ABC has worked together to draft several technical amendments, of which, I have included. When the bill is worked, we would appreciate your consideration of including them in the final product.

Sincerely,

Scott Schneider