

March 31, 2015
SB 298

Dear Chairman Ostmeyer and Honorable Members of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee:

As a constituent who votes, I am writing in support of SB 298. We are finding grocery stores to be a way of life these days. The grocery store is more than just a place to buy groceries. We can now buy coffee from a fancy café, eat a meal, rent a movie, do our banking, and fill our prescriptions, all within the confines of a single store. So it makes sense to me that we should be able to add another service to grocery store offerings: a selection of alcoholic beverages.

Are we as consumers just becoming more lazy? Possibly. But I also believe everyone is simply busy, and if we can attend to our personal business in a more efficient manner, we will. I am a mother of three children ages 9 and under, and I work full time, while my husband also works full time and attends school.

I tend to do most of my grocery shopping while alone on the weekends and I generally enjoy taking the time to stop in the liquor store to peruse their offerings. But the weeknight is an entirely different matter. If I'm running into the store to pick up something to complete my planned meal for that night, it would be wonderful to be able to make a quick stop by the wine aisle for a bottle of red in the same store while I already have my kids out of the car.

Notice how I said I enjoy visiting a nice liquor store. I like to talk with the employees and experts there to see what they recommend or to discover if there is anything new to try. I would not expect the same level of customer service at a grocery store, and that is fine. But I do think there is still a place for liquor stores and that they will continue to thrive in Kansas if SB 298 is passed. In fact, I grew up in Illinois and still visit there frequently. I am always amazed by the selection of spirits available in Illinois grocery stores (including brands exclusive to grocery stores such as Trader Joe's and Aldi, which are simply unavailable to Kansas consumers). And it's interesting that for as long as I can remember, it has been possible to buy any kind of liquor at the grocery store in Illinois, yet there is no shortage of thriving liquor stores there.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Amy Conner
Manhattan, Kansas