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**Testimony to the House Commerce and Economic Development Committee
In a Neutral Position on HB2532**

The Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police and the Kansas Peace Officers Association offer this neutral testimony on HB2532. We are not advocating for or against the policy decision of this bill. There are many people with more expertise on the issues surrounding expanding alcohol sales to additional retail outlets and any expected consequences or advantages. However, there are some law enforcement impacts we want to point out in order for you to have an opportunity to address them.

First and foremost is the most obvious impact--the enforcement of the liquor laws with expanded points of sale. It is not real clear how many additional outlets the proposed expansion would create. Over the past several years, Kansas law enforcement has increased its monitoring and enforcement of the liquor laws. The sale of liquor and CMB to underage persons has been of particular focus of the enforcement efforts along with addressing the social hosting problem. It is obvious if the number of outlets expands, there will need to be additional resources to maintain the same level of enforcement. But the concern does not stop with the number of retail outlets. The expansion into stores with many more clerks, such as super markets, will add a large number of people involved in the sales that will need training and monitoring. Clearly enforcement of underage sales will become much more challenging for law enforcement under this proposal. Liquor stores are relatively easy to monitor. Larger stores will be impossible to monitor from outside the store. It is likely only sting type operations will be effective in that environment.

These additional challenges will add to the workload of both local law enforcement and the ABC enforcement section. Local law enforcement must rely heavily on the ABC for support of liquor law enforcement. We request legislative consideration to provide adequate funding for both local and ABC enforcement if this bill passes.

Second, an expansion of alcohol sales should also be met with an increased capacity to provide alcohol education programs, training of sales people, prevention programs, and the aforementioned enforcement resources. We would hope if HB2532 passes, some of the tax revenues from increased sales would be targeted for these programs.

Our request is for the committee to keep these issues in mind and to take action to assure law enforcement has the resources necessary to properly enforce the relevant laws implementing your policy decisions. The drive to comply with the laws is greatly enhanced with proper training, education, prevention programs and enforcement. It is of highest importance that we maintain adequate resources to prevent and detect underage sales and underage drinking through training, education, and enforcement.

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House Commerce & Economic Development

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