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Members of the Commerce and Economic Development Committee – Chairman Brown

This past summer we had the big cantaloupe scare. I am not positive how many deaths there were in Kansas, but I know there were not more than three. Almost everyone was afraid to eat cantaloupe. How many deaths did we have from alcohol related traffic deaths? In 2010 Kansas had 168 – but did we take alcohol off the shelves? No, we did not take it off the shelves, in fact, this bill would add alcohol to a good many shelves. Kansas ranks #47 among the states for the most alcohol related traffic deaths. And there are those who want to make this killer product more available? I don't think it is wise at all if we are the least bit concerned with safety on our roads.

Of course traffic fatalities are only one aspect of deaths and problems with alcohol. Drownings, domestic abuse, homicides and suicides and other health issues all are increased with alcohol usage.

How much harder do you think it is going to be to check underage buyers of alcohol at the grocery store? At least, when they go into the liquor store, their only purpose is to buy alcohol and the surveillance is greater. Some of my colleagues have pointed out that a recovering alcoholic might accidentally be thrown into temptation at a grocery store.

There are some people who find going into a liquor store a bit intimidating. This would not be the case in putting a bottle in the bottom of their grocery cart.

Sometimes when I go to the grocery store, I pick up some items that I did not start out to buy. I do it just because it is on sale or looks good or some other impulse buying. I also do it because it is available and I don't have to go somewhere else to buy it. That is why I believe consumption will increase. People will find it handy to pick up that bottle of liquor. Increased consumption of a product that creates all the above mentioned problems is not a smart move.

I strongly urge you to Vote No in committee on HB 2532. Thank you for consideration of these reasons.