

Testimony Re: HB 2550
House Federal and State Affairs Committee
Presented by Megan Garrelts
on behalf of
Trezo Vino
February 6, 2012

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

My name is Megan Garrelts, I am the owner of Bluestem Restaurant in Kansas City, Missouri. I am also a consultant for Trezo Vino in Leawood, Kansas. I am submitting written testimony in support of HB 2550.

The changes to this statute would allow for liquor licensees to offer, what many refer to as Happy Hours, in Kansas restaurants and bars. Current law does not allow licensed drinking establishments to offer a drink for a price that is less than that charged for all other drinks on the same day.

The current law is bad for Kansas business. Last week I had a group of customers leave our restaurant because we are not able to offer a drink discount. This is not a one time occurrence. Guests often do not understand that a state regulation prevents this. Like many other businesses we offer a happy hour that provides discounts on appetizers. Guests are confused and get upset when this does not include drinks. Most customers assume this is a business decision.

I would like to be able to offer a drink special for a short amount of time to keep the guests that come in expecting drink specials and attract new customers to the restaurant. This would then allow me the opportunity to sell that same guest food, generating additional sales.

I am asking for a level playing field, which will allow me the opportunity to meet my customer's needs and to provide the same services as neighboring businesses across the state line.

I would like to ask this committee to support the passage of HB 2550.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony.

Megan Garrelts