

Opponent: HB2206

March 2, 2013

Dear Chairman Kleeb and fellow committee members,

In the midnight hours the screen door bowed under the weight and rage of my uncle as he came for his wife and children. Alcohol enraged him and his loud rantings were heard by several of our suburban neighbors. We all huddled in fear as my mother was the only blockage between him and his target until the police would arrive. Cirrhosis took his life years after the divorce broke up the family.

Kansas farmers got the call in the night saying their son has been in an accident. Underage drinking and driving were involved – and he was along for “good times.” Alcohol made my husband's cousin leave the dream of college life for months of rehabilitation and a lifetime in a wheel chair.

You know your own stories. Everyone has at least one classmate, relative or friend hurt by alcohol.

As a Kansan transplant via Massachusetts, it is nice to know I now have the opportunity to shop in a grocery store that does NOT sell liquor. It is good to know under age adults can work as a bagger or cashier and not have to be around liquor. If they can't legally drink it, they shouldn't be required to stock it or tally it. For many, this would violate their moral convictions, other it will influence them negatively.

Can we live with the justification of “convenience” to allow the expansion of liquor sales when the same people demanding convenience will go to a multitude of clothing stores to complete their outfit only to start the same search for the right shoes? Or do the same for home decorating?

How inconvenient is it really to walk from a car to another store entrance? Inconvenience is leaving home with four children in pajamas to escape alcohol induced abuse or wheeling your way through all your college campus courses.

My husband and I urge you to leave the arguments of convenience and deluded revenues behind, embrace facts and commonsense and vote no to oppose HB 2206.

Sincerely,

(signatures)

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