



Against

Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 2200
House Commerce, Labor and Economic
Development Committee
Pamela Fair
Kansas Families Against Liberal Liquor Laws
February 12, 2015

Chairman Hutton and Members of the Committee:

Kansas Families Against Liberal Liquor Laws is a group of Kansas families in opposition to changes in state law that would increase the access and availability of liquor to Kansas children. We are not an anti-alcohol organization: we simply believe alcohol should be a regulated product and its social impacts must be considered.

It has long been accepted as solid public policy in Kansas that increased access to alcohol is not a social good. The **Center for Disease Control** has repeatedly found sufficient evidence of a positive association between outlet density and excessive alcohol consumption, and related harms caused by that excessive consumption.

The **U.S. Navy** has taken serious steps to reduce density and access by eliminating alcoholic beverages from their convenience outlets and reducing hours of sale from their other stores. Here is what the Department of the Navy said about the change:

"Prior to making these changes, the Navy analyzed reports of criminal misconduct, particularly sexual assault, and safety incidents throughout the Fleet...As a result of our finding...the Chief of Naval Operations directed several alcohol marketing actions designed to deglamorize and limit its accessibility..."

An article is attached regarding these changes and a copy of a letter to a United States Congressman from the Navy, explaining this change, is also included.

The facts tell us Kansas has it right in keeping alcohol in a system that allows specialty retailers, and not mass market retailers, to sell alcoholic beverages.

The **No.1 retail item stolen** in America from grocery and convenience stores is alcohol, according to the Global Retail Theft Barometer (*article attached*). The facts tell us expanding alcohol sales to these outlets will make it more accessible to minors and easier to steal. Combine this problem with the fact that HB 2200 allows minors to sell strong beer, liquor and wine, and there is no doubt alcohol in Kansas will become more available to minors.

Those who wish to place convenience over our beliefs and values will tell you increased outlets and more access does not lead to more problems. However, for every obscure reference they use to back up these claims, study after study suggests there is a direct link between the increased density of alcohol and alcohol related harms to families.

The introduction to the American Medical Association's Alcohol Policy article on *The Relationship Between Alcohol Availability and Injury and Crime*, clearly summarizes this issue:

"There is a growing body of research that shows what many people already know: areas with more alcohol outlets (a business or location where alcoholic beverages are sold) tend to experience more alcohol-related injury and crime. Incidents of sexual and other assaults, domestic violence, child abuse, youth violence, homicides, alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes, and drunk driving have all been shown to increase when the availability of alcohol increases."

Furthermore, communities will be defenseless against the negative effects of this legislation. Law and liquor enforcement agencies lack funds and staff to adequately carry out enforcement responsibilities now! These problems have been exacerbated by recent budget cuts. How will these agencies guarantee the safety of our children and families by adding thousands of establishments to their enforcement responsibilities?

Many local communities have taken a stand in defense of their citizens by passing ordinances to protect children from the moral decay that comes with increased alcohol density and objectionable businesses. As communities work to curb increases in underage drinking and violent crimes connected to alcohol access, legislation increasing liquor availability deserves a similar morally conservative defense. Why does the Legislature feel the need to consider legislation that will immediately undo these efforts?

I ask you not to lose sight of the significant public price that will be paid by Kansas families under this legislation. There is no denying the devastating social impact it will have on Kansas.

On behalf of Kansas families concerned about the well-being of our children, I respectfully ask you to oppose House Bill 2200 and stand in support of strong Kansas children and families.



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVY PERS. & COMM. DIVISION
1000 19th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20374-5001
Tel: 202/696-6000

December 27, 2013

The Honorable Charlie Dent
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Dent:

Thank you for your letter of December 8, 2013, concerning the Navy's recent changes to its alcohol marketing strategy.

Prior to making these changes, the Navy analyzed reports of criminal misconduct, particularly sexual assault, and safety incidents throughout the Fleet. We validated trends of irresponsible alcohol use underlying each of these bad behaviors.

As a result of our findings, and in keeping with the Navy's 21st Century Sailor initiative, the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) directed several alcohol marketing actions designed to de-glamorize alcohol and limit its accessibility onboard our installations. These are just a few of the many actions the Navy has taken to prepare Sailors and their families to handle the mental and emotional rigors of Naval service, and to ensure the safety and security of the Force.

Again, thank you for your inquiry. Please let me know if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Anne R. Davis
Anne Rathmell Davis
Deputy Commander

Enclosure:
CNO letter Ser N00/100056 of 18 Jul 13.

Copy to:
Mr. David J. Brightbill


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News

Navy Changes How Alcohol is Sold On-Base

769

79 comments



Associated Press | Aug 18, 2013 | by Brock Vergakis

NAVAL STATION NORFOLK, Va. — On the world's largest naval base, sailors can pull into a gas station and buy a bottle of liquor before sunrise.

But as the Navy works to curb alcohol abuse in a push reduce sexual assaults and other crimes, the days of picking up a bottle of Kahlua along with a cup of coffee are coming to an end.

The Navy's top admiral has ordered a series of changes to the way the Navy sells booze. Chief among them, the Navy will stop selling liquor at its

mini marts and prohibit the sale of alcohol at any of its stores from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

"It's not going to fix everything, but it is a real step in the right direction," said David Jemigan, Johns Hopkins University's director of the Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth. "Historically, the military, as elsewhere, has viewed these problems as individual problems to be dealt with by identifying the individual with the problem. While that's important, the research shows it's much more effective actually to look at it as a population problem and to deal with things that are affecting everybody across the population."

The changes are the latest addition to a broader, long-standing alcohol education and awareness program that appears to have had some success. Throughout the Navy, the number of alcohol-related criminal offenses dropped from 5,950 in the 2007 fiscal year to 4,216 in the 2012 fiscal year. The number of DUI offenses dropped from 2,025 to 1,218 during that same period, according to Navy Personnel Command.

Liquor will still be sold on U.S. bases at a discount of up to 10 percent for what it can be bought at in a civilian store, but sales will be limited to dedicated package stores or exchanges that sell a wide variety of items.

At Naval Station Norfolk, the main exchange is comparable to a small shopping mall that sells clothing, electronics and jewelry, among other things, at a discount. At smaller naval bases, the exchanges aren't as sprawling but still often have the feel of big-box retail. While hours at those stores vary, most open at 9 a.m. close by 9 p.m.


2015 MILITARY PAY CHARTS


SEE MY PAY RAISE

The Navy's minimarts at the Norfolk base currently start selling liquor as early as 6 a.m. That's four hours earlier than people can buy at Virginia's state-run ABC stores off-base that are typically open from from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays.

Jemigan said a growing preference among young people for distilled spirits over beer and wine means the Navy's moves could be particularly helpful.

"But that said, alcohol is alcohol, so reducing the availability of one kind is a step in the right direction, but you can certainly get just as impaired from drinking beer and wine as you can from distilled spirits," he said.

In the 2012 fiscal year, the Navy reported \$91.9 million in distilled spirits sales, compared with \$39.3



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Navy Changes How Alcohol is Sold On-Base | Military.com

million in wine and \$62.3 million in beer. The Navy uses 70 percent of the profits from its sales of alcoholic and non-alcoholic products to support morale, welfare and recreation programs.

Chief of Naval Operations Jonathan Greenert also ordered the exchanges to display alcohol only in the rear of its stores. The new rules are set to take effect by mid-October.

Greenert's order on alcohol sales was issued the same day in late July the Navy unveiled other initiatives to battle sexual assaults that range from hiring more criminal investigators to installing better lighting on bases.

The effort follows a Pentagon report, released in May, that estimates as many as 26,000 service members may have been sexually assaulted last year.

Alcohol is often involved. In a survey, 55 percent of Navy women said they or the offender had consumed alcohol before unwanted sexual contact.

Navy officials have stressed they're not trying to keep sailors from drinking, but they want them to do so responsibly.

The Navy is already giving many sailors random alcohol-detection tests when they report for duty, and soon the devices will be found on store shelves for personal use. The single-use product will sell for \$1.99.

Jernigan suggested the Navy may want to eliminate its discounts on alcohol - just as it recently did with tobacco - if it wants to make further strides.

Not all sailors think the new rules will help.

"If people are going to drink, they're still going to buy it wherever," Seaman Bryan Free said after buying a bottle of vodka from a Naval Station Norfolk gas station. "So if they take it out of here, it's not going to do nothing because they're going to go to the package store right out of base. That's usually where everybody gets it. So it doesn't really matter."

Most of the Navy's large bases are in urban areas with plenty of convenience and grocery stores nearby.

And in the Navy, on-base housing options are typically limited, leading Free and other sailors commute to work rather than living in barracks.

Robert Parker, a University of California at Riverside sociology professor who has studied the links between alcohol and crime, said restricting on-base alcohol sales should help even if there are places to buy it nearby.

"If you make something like alcohol harder to get, you restrict the hours, you restrict the places it can be bought, then generally consumption goes down in that community or that area because people have a lot of things to do in addition to buying alcohol," Parker said. "There will be some individuals that will be determined no matter what, and they'll travel 100 miles to buy a six pack, but most people won't do that."

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10 things Americans steal most

By [Catey Hill](#)

Published: Nov 8, 2014 10:07 a.m. ET

Other people's sticky fingers end up costing your family \$350+



Slide 1 of

Shoplifting is on the rise in the U.S. — and Americans these days are particularly keen on getting their paws on certain items (better guard that booze, shopkeepers).

According to [The Global Retail Theft Barometer](#) released this week by Checkpoint Systems, Americans steal from retailers to the tune of nearly \$16 billion annually. Last year, consumers' sticky fingers were responsible for more than 37% (up from 34% in 2012) of the total shrinkage suffered by retailers; in rough terms, shrinkage is the revenue companies should receive

minus what they do receive, due in large part to a combination of losses from shoplifting, employee theft and vendor/supplier fraud.

"Ease in selling stolen merchandise, deployment of lesser employees on the sales floor for servicing customers and reduction in social stigma are the major reasons contributing to the growth in shoplifting in the U.S.," the report reveals.

The shoplifting issue becomes particularly problematic come holiday time. Although the report doesn't break out exactly how much shoplifting goes on during the holidays, retailers experience nearly three-fourths of their total annual shrinkage (of which shoplifting is a large part) during the holidays.

[Also see: 10 insane things people tried to smuggle through airport security](#)

"Shoplifting is up and a major concern to retailers during the holidays," says Ernie Deyle, the study co-author and leader of the business consulting practice at data analytics firm Sysrepublic. "This is, in part, because in the last quarter of the year (Oct-Dec) most retailers book 40+% of annual revenue."

What's more, thieving and fraud costs you personally — even if you're as honest as they come. Retailers pass along shrinkage costs (the bulk of which is from fraud and theft by shoplifters and employees) to consumers to the tune of \$403, on average, per household.

Here are the 10 items Americans are most likely to steal from stores, according to custom data The Global Retail Theft Barometer ran for MarketWatch.

Slide 2 of

Wines and spirits

Here in America, we like our booze — especially when we don't have to pay for it: The No. 1 thing Americans steal from

2/9/2015

10 things Americans steal most - MarketWatch



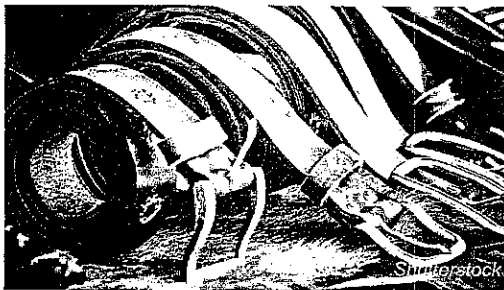
stores are wines and spirits. Interestingly, wine and spirits don't top the list globally (they're down in the No. 3 spot).

Slide 3 of



Makeup

Both globally and in the U.S., makeup is the second most frequently stolen item. Part of the reason for these high rates of makeup theft is that the products tend to be small and thus easy to pocket.



Slide 4 of Fashion accessories and facial creams

Deyle, the study author, says that in many cases the more hip and on-trend the item, the more likely it will be stolen, even if it's not very pricey. That may explain why fashion accessories landed the No. 3 spot on the U.S. list and the no. 1 spot on the global list. Facial cream, like makeup, is small and easy to steal, which may be why it's so high up on the list (it ranks No. 10 globally).



Slide 5 of Swimwear

Swimwear, which lands in the No. 4 spot on the U.S. list, is nowhere to be found on the global list of most-stolen items. "Outside the U.S., swim suits are typically sold by smaller stores and associates, who work with customers more closely, monitoring what is taken off a rack and brought into and out of a changing room," says Deyle. "In addition, due to the size of these garments and the material used, many U.S. retailers don't use effective inventory devices to protect swimsuits."

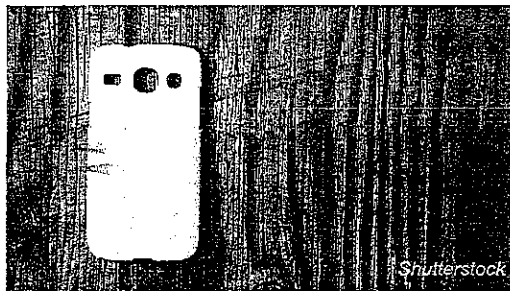


Slide 6 of Sunglasses

Ever walked into a store and balked at how much sunglasses cost (\$100+ pairs seem to pop up in every department store these days)? Us, too. That may be, in part, because they're the fifth-most-stolen item in America.

Slide 7 of Mobile accessories

Chargers, phone covers and other mobile accessories are among the hottest items that thieves go after, likely because of



the ease with which you can steal them. What's more, often the trendier mobile accessories -- say a name-brand phone cover -- are particularly coveted by thieves.

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8 of



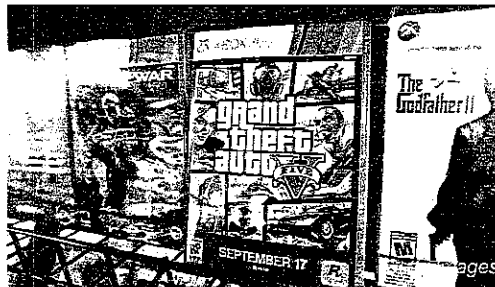
Razorblades

Walk into any drugstore in America, and you'll typically find the razorblades locked in a case. Clearly, these stores know what they're doing as these items are the seventh-most-stolen product in America and the ninth most globally.



Slide 9 of
Lingerie/intimate apparel

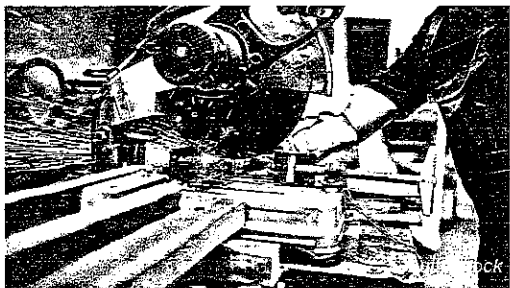
Underthings are quite frequently stolen both globally (where they rank No. 7) and in the U.S. (where they rank No. 8).



Slide
10 of
CDs,
DVDs
and

videogames

We like our entertainment -- and we like it free. DVDs and videogames, and to a much lesser degree CDs, are the ninth most-stolen items in America, though they don't even crack the top 10 globally.



Slide 11 of
Power tools

It makes sense that power tools are the No. 10 most frequently stolen item: they can be very pricey, especially considering that most people don't use them all that frequently.

MarketWatch

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<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/10-things-americans-steal-most-2014-11-07/print>