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TESTIMONY

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HEARING ON HB2331
Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee
1 p.m. Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Chairman Ostmeyer and members of the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee:

The City of Wichita opposes SB2331 as it was amended and adopted by the Kansas House of Representatives on March 19.

SB2331 would authorize virtually any business to feature a “BYOB” practice, allowing customers to bring and consume their own alcoholic beverages on the business premises.

The City of Wichita further opposes the adoption of an amendment restricting the BYOB practice to any specific business, such as arts studios. There are numerous other types of businesses, including but not limited to, spas, hair and nail salons and bridal stores, that have expressed an interest in allowing a BYOB practice for certain events. Limiting the practice to arts studios would be unfair to those other enterprises that might also wish to allow the BYOB option.

Additionally, the amendment that mirrors HB2413 restricting the BYOB practice to arts studios that are validated by the Bureau of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) imposes no limits on the presence of minors where the alcoholic liquor is being consumed nor does it impose any limits on hours of operation for such businesses, leaving this exception open to abuse.

Without limitations, SB2331 will create enormous law enforcement problems. There are a number of businesses that would use the opportunity to foster illegal activity and circumvent the intent of existing statutory boundaries that regulate alcohol consumption.

