

February 14, 2017

Chairman Les Mason and Members of the House Commerce, Labor and Economic Development Committee:

My name is Michele Frumkin and I own KC Wine & Spirits in Overland Park, KS. I am writing to you today to express my opposition to HB 2282, which would allow grocery stores, super stores and convenience stores to sell high alcohol-content beer and wine. My husband and I purchased our store two months ago using much of our savings. We were so proud to be investing in a store that services our local community and at the same time allows us to participate in part of the American dream – business ownership. Apart from the obvious financial devastation HB 2282 would bring to our small business, the economy of Overland Park and Kansas as a whole would suffer as well. The loss of property taxes, payroll taxes, and reduced revenue to local government as a result of small businesses that close will certainly be realized. More importantly, sales dollars earned by big grocery, box, and convenience stores would benefit large corporations that are NOT headquartered in Kansas. HB2282 would re-direct money AWAY from Kansas. Wouldn't you rather our state, county, and local governments benefit from the liquor sales of locally, FAMILY-owned businesses?

In addition, locally-owned liquor stores help keep alcohol out of the hands of minors. Our employees are diligent to ensure that consumers are of age. Studies also show that there is a higher rate of theft of alcohol among minors in larger supermarket-type environments where the ratio of consumer to employee is likely lessened.

Furthermore, I have 10 employees that will be negatively impacted by HB 2282. For several of them, their employment at our store is their livelihood. KC Wine & Spirits is located in close proximity to a large grocery store and will be put of business very quickly. The state of Kansas shouldn't want more citizens applying for unemployment.

I support local charities and events and utilize local businesses to support my business, including legal services, advertising, accounting, and technological services. They, too, would be negatively impacted by HB 2282.

PLEASE oppose HB2282. Keep local Kansas businesses in business, keep alcohol out of the hands of minors, and invest in your fellow Kansans.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Michele Frumkin
Owner
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