



January 12, 2021

To: Senate Judiciary Committee

From: R.E. "Tuck" Duncan
Kansas Wine & Spirits Wholesalers Association

RE: SB 14; AN ACT concerning governmental response to the COVID-19 pandemic in Kansas; providing certain relief related . . . authorizing the temporary sale of alcoholic liquor for consumption off of certain licensed premises

The Kansas Wine & Spirits Wholesalers Association supports Sec. 1 of SB 14.

Extending this provision until March 31, 2021 will benefit drinking establishments and consumers alike. Drinking establishments across the state have experienced difficult times during the pandemic, many with reduced hours by local orders, and this provision enacted during the 2020 Special Session in HB2016 has been extremely valuable and important in providing income for the survival of these businesses.

Thank you for your kind attention to and consideration of this matter.

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**Off-Premise Alcohol Sales Are a Lifeline for Bars and Restaurants**

<https://vinepair.com/> (Excerpts) When the Covid-19 pandemic first took hold in the U.S., most bars and restaurants across the country were forced to close or transition their operations to delivery or takeout. As on-premises sales dropped off a cliff, state governments responded with temporary executive orders allowing bars and restaurants to sell sealed, unopened bottles of wine, beer, and spirits — and, in some cases, pre-made cocktails — to go.

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Nationwide, 32 states plus the District of Columbia have relaxed licensing laws to allow bars and restaurants to sell sealed, unopened bottles of wine, beer, and spirits. Of those states, almost 20 are also allowing sales of pre-made cocktails to go. This is an

important distinction, operators say, as mixed drinks offer exponentially greater profits than selling sealed liquor bottles.

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All the professionals interviewed for this piece — from the bar operators in four different states to beverage lawyers to the president of a national trade organization — agree that on-premises businesses should be allowed to offer alcohol and cocktails to go permanently.

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**Selling alcohol to go has given bars and restaurants a lifeline during Covid-19. The temporary orders have also shown that selling wine, beer, spirits, and cocktails to go can be done responsibly.**