

State of Kansas
House of Representatives



State Capitol, Room 166-W

Topeka, Kansas 66612

785-296-7640

256 Van Arsdale

Haysville, Kansas 67060

March 7, 2013

Thank You Chairmen Kleeb, and the Committee members of this fine group of Legislatures

As a member of this Legislature for 2013 – 14, I am very interested in the process that is being considered today. HB 2206 is an attempt by many big businesses that only want the change in the law to further their opportunity to make more of the almighty buck. This is totally deplorable and a big “Shame on YOU!” Should be stated to them.

The Liquor stores of Kansas that number over 1700 are owned and operated by sole proprietors in most cases. They control by statute the liquor and wines in the state because over 60 years ago this legislative body of that day asked them to control it. They have with very minor exception kept the under age and the product safe from those who don't need to be using this product.

Kansas is ranked number 17th of all the states that control Liquor products for DUI's because they have done a great job. Missouri is ranked 42nd in DUI Fatalities. This is an indictment against this bill and we should think and vote to protect Kansans from this very BIG possibility.

Missouri who just allowed their state business's such as being considered here to put the hard liquor into the grocery stores has a story that we do not need to replicate here in Kansas, Consider this, Alcohol use in past month among persons aged 12 to 20 is up 30%. Those among that same age group is

approximately 107,000. Binge drinking in the past month in this same group that now can get their hard liquor in a convenience store is up 21.2% which is counted as 75,000 kids. What an indictment on Missouri. We don't need to replicate this unrighteous nonsense in this Great State of Kansas.

A poll that was taken some weeks back state and the people of Kansas stated 66% of them would prefer it stay as it is. We don't need our state to follow Missouri's rates as they jump greatly in the first year for DUI's and Alcoholism. Another part of the survey poll was that 81% believe the hard liquor should be only displayed in a liquor store and not alongside candy and milk.

Please think about what you are about to do before you vote, this is serious business and I implore you to vote for Kansas and its safety at this time.

Thanks for your consideration.

Rep. Joe Edwards

Kansas House District 93