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Testimony Re: SB 203
House Federal and State Affairs Committee
Presented by Julie J. Hein
on behalf of
Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association
March 25, 2013

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

My name is Julie Hein, and I am a lobbyist for the Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association (KRHA). The Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association, founded in 1929, is the leading business association for restaurants, hotels, motels, country clubs, private clubs and allied business in Kansas. Along with the Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association Education Foundation, the association works to represent, educate and promote the rapidly growing industry of hospitality in Kansas.

KRHA supports SB 203. This bill cleans up a provision of the alcohol laws relating to price lists, but also provides, in statutes, a process which had been recognized in this state for numerous years, which relates to hotels being able to provide drink coupons for their guests. This procedure had been recognized by the Alcoholic Beverage Control Division for many years, prior to a determination that such a process was not totally in compliance with the statutes prohibiting free drinks. The ABC Division has agreed with the process, but has determined a statutory change is necessary to make the process legal. SB 203 gives the ABC the rules and regulations authority to determine the process.

In addition, SB 203 permits drinking establishments to sell pitchers of margaritas, sangria, and mojitos. This was previously permitted, prior to a change in legislation last year which permitted pitchers of beer, but inadvertently excluded these other drinks.

The KRHA also supports the provision permitting licensees to file civil actions against persons who mis-represent their age in violation of the liquor control act.

Thank you very much for permitting me to testify, and I will be happy to yield to questions.