



# First Lutheran Church

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*God calls us to share the love of Jesus Christ through the Word with all people and to help them grow spiritually to love, serve, and glorify God.*

February 15, 2011

Federal State Affairs Committee:

As pastor of a Christian congregation in the Topeka community, I want to encourage our state legislature representatives to carefully consider the changes being introduced into Kansas law through Kansas Senate Bill #54. Many business individuals have shared their concerns about the economic impact which the aforementioned bill might have on local communities in our state and upon our state budget, raising the substantial issue that the passing of such this bill may have an unintended (and perhaps unforeseen) negative impact. As a Kansas citizen, I would hope those concerns would be well examined before any vote would be taken.

My main concern as a minister, however, lies elsewhere. I am worried that the proliferation of access points for the sale of alcohol beverages will have a detrimental effect upon the young people of our community. Already, there are many instances of under aged youth purchasing (or attempting to purchase) alcohol in the locations which the state has authorized to operate. Making available who-knows-how-many-more outlets for such transactions to occur will, in my opinion, only amplify the frequency of illegal drinking on the part of teenagers and/or young adult. The potential results could include more alcohol related automobile accidents and teenage deaths. (I speak from experience on this, since under aged drinking contributed to the accidental car death of a teenager in my own congregation a number of years ago).

I hope and pray that our elected legislators will look at this bill not only from an economic standpoint but also from an ethical and youth-protection viewpoint. I don't believe that we in our state and local communities need to be doing anything which will increase the potential use of alcohol among our younger population. Kansas Senate Bill #54 definitely has that potential effect.

Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts and opinions. You will be in my personal prayers as you deliberate on this issue.

Sincerely,

Rev. Elwyn J. Lubber  
Pastor, First Lutheran Church