



Chairman Marvin Kleeb and Commerce Committee,

Thank you for all you do for the state. We appreciate your sacrifice and know you want what is best for the people of Kansas.

I come before you today as the Executive Director of Culture Shield Network. Culture Shield exists to inform>connect>mobilize churches across Kansas to engage in their culture. We have contacted three major denominations, the Assembly of God that represents 500 Pastors, the Southern Baptist that have 400 churches, and the Nazarene's that have 180 churches and dozens of non-denominational churches. They send you greetings with the message that they are totally against HB 2206. Culture Shield communicates through radio, workshops and action alert e-mails. We network with all existing pro-family organizations. The church will not sit this one out.

In Kansas we have struck a fair balance by not selling hard liquor in our grocery stores and convenience stores. The liquor stores in Kansas are well regulated

1. First and foremost this will only increase access of hard liquor to minors. Reducing the age to sell alcohol from 21 to 18 is dangerous. Peer pressure could persuade illegal exchanges.
2. This can only result in increased alcoholism among minors in our state. A study done by Kansas Department of Rehabilitation referenced that when selling hard liquor in convenience stores; the results were an increase of 37.4% in consumption. Studies have shown that the greater density for sales locations of alcohol is associated with increased alcohol consumption and related harms, including medical harm, injury, crime, and violence. This can only result in increased juvenile crime.
3. Kansas desires to be supportive of citizens who have overcome alcohol addictions. They never have to walk into a liquor store, but frequent grocery and convenience stores at least weekly.
4. A survey of over 6,000 teenagers showed that Convenience stores are the easiest place to buy alcohol.
5. Comparison of Missouri & Kansas statistics about drunk driving & alcohol related deaths

(see attached)

Again, thank you for your attention and service.

Donna Lippoldt – Executive Director of Culture Shield Network

Missouri - 2007

- 31,633 arrested in Missouri for drunk driving / DUI (*Driving under the Influence*)
- 305 fatal accidents in Missouri where at least one driver had a BAC of 0.08% or above
- 333 people were killed in Missouri in accidents where at least one driver had a BAC of 0.08% or above
- 59 people were killed in Missouri in accidents where at least one driver had a BAC between 0.01% and 0.07%
- 392 total deaths caused in Missouri where at least one driver had a BAC of 0.01% or above

KANSAS-2007

- 12,080 arrested in Kansas for drunk driving / DUI (*Driving under the Influence*)
- 102 fatal accidents in Kansas where at least one driver had a BAC of 0.08% or above
- 109 people were killed in Kansas in accidents where at least one driver had a BAC of 0.08% or above
- 26 people were killed in Kansas in accidents where at least one driver had a BAC between 0.01% and 0.07%
- 136 total deaths caused in Kansas where at least one driver had a BAC of 0.01% or above

http://www.missourieconomy.org/indicators/population/pop-2006_07.stm