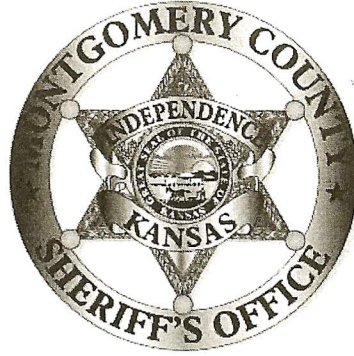


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February 10, 2011

Senator Jeff King  
State Capitol, Room 237-E  
300 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: Senate Bill 54

Dear Senator King:

I am writing in opposition of Senate Bill 54 which would permit the expansion of the sale of liquor convenience stores, grocery stores, and pawn shops throughout Kansas. This passage of this bill would all individuals under the legal drinking age to handle the sale of liquor and spirits, and make alcoholic beverages more accessible to minors.

Studies show the following are directly related to alcohol availability and use:

- Alcohol availability is closely related to violent assaults, and communities and neighborhoods that have more bars and liquor stores per capita experience more assaults.
- In 2002, more than 70,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 were victims of alcohol-related sexual assault in the U.S.
- In those violent incidents recorded by the police in which alcohol was a factor, about nine percent of offenders and nearly 14 percent of the victims were under age 21.
- Twenty-eight percent of suicides by children ages nine to 15 were attributable to alcohol.

In addition to the above, more enforcing agents would be necessary to ensure these establishments following the rules and regulations as set forth by the Kansas Department of Revenue's Division of Alcohol Beverage Control.

Please consider the above facts and statistics when considering the passage of this bill.

Respectfully,

ROBERT DIERKS