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Senate Federal & State Affairs Committee  
SB 299

Testimony of  
Doug Jorgensen  
Director, Alcoholic Beverage Control

January 24, 2012

Good morning Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. I thank you for the opportunity to appear here today to present testimony in support of SB 299.

Kansas now has several large public venues that are used primarily for sporting events, concerts and theatrical productions. These venues are unique in their size, capacity, and operations. The drinking establishment license, which is currently the only license type available for these types of operations, prohibits these venues from operating in a manner consistent with reasonable expectations of the licensees, the venues' owners, and the general public.

A new license type, different and unique, is necessary to efficiently regulate these types of premises, yet allow activities that are standard business practices across the country for these types of venues. This bill would allow public venues to sell and serve unlimited drinks for a fixed price in designated areas of the venue, sell package deals for tickets, food and beverages, including alcoholic liquor, and allow bottle service in the private suites.

The venues would still be subject to immediate entry and inspection by ABC and other law enforcement officers. With this bill, ABC could effectively enforce the provisions of the club and drinking establishment act while allowing these types of venues to operate in a reasonable manner.

ABC therefore requests the committee vote favorably and move this bill to the Senate as a whole for a vote on the floor.

Thank you for considering our proposal.