

Testimony: Senate Bill 269
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The Kansas Legislature has in it power the ability to at least hold the line on the consumption of alcohol. Alcohol is by far the largest drug problem in America. Any legislation that allows alcohol consumption to increase is bad legislation.

A new study finds that excessive alcohol consumption cost the United States \$223.5 billion in 2006, or about \$1.90 per drink. By implementing effective community-based prevention strategies, we can reduce excessive alcohol consumption and its costs.

Excessive alcohol consumption is known to kill about 79,000 people in the United States each year, but a new study released by the CDC and The Lewin Group shows that it also has a huge impact on our wallets as well.

The cost of excessive alcohol consumption in the United States reached **\$223.5 billion** in 2006 or about **\$1.90 per drink**. Almost three-quarters of these costs were due to **binge drinking**. The researchers found that the cost of excessive drinking was quite far-reaching, reflecting the effect this dangerous behavior has on many aspects of the drinker's life and on the lives of those around them. The costs largely resulted from losses in **workplace productivity** (72% of the total cost), **health care** expenses for problems caused by excessive drinking (11% of total), law enforcement and other **criminal justice** expenses related to excessive alcohol consumption (9% of total), and **motor vehicle crash** costs from impaired driving (6% of the total). The researchers estimated that excessive drinking cost \$746 for every man, woman and child in the United States in 2006 the latest year the full data was available. Even the 40% of us that do not ever drink alcohol foot the bill for the \$746 each year.

I have also been researching other harm done by alcohol. I came across the 13th type of cancer linked to alcohol. But I have shared all of this with you for years. My hope is that you will remember these things and the multitude of other alcohol harms that I have documented for you and put this bill in the trash.

Garry Winget, KAP President