



Testimony concerning HB 2091

Dear Chairman Jennings and Committee,

My name is Donna Lippoldt and I'm the director of Culture Shield Network. I am the Mother of 5 and Grandmother of 15. Our organization is statewide and I represent some very involved parents as well as hundreds of churches. HB 2091, as written is very concerning. I don't believe the Government desires to be a "Nanny State," nor do I believe anyone wants to encourage under age drinking. However, it is questionable as to just how teens know about this law. Just how would they find out about it without the person or persons explaining it sounding complicit in illegal drinking? Is this talked about in the public schools?

The Government and its laws are supposed to be there to protect its citizens. We all know that bad decisions can be made by the best of teens. However, there are consequences to those actions.

Let's say, my granddaughter age 14 finds herself at a party where hard liquor is being served. There are two ways she could have a medical emergency in that situation. Someone could intentionally serve her a GHB, or she could drink way too much and pass out. In that case as the law is written now, upon arrival the EMS or Law Official is not to contact the parent, nor enforce the law about underage drinking. Of course, medical attention is the first priority. However, without this amendment, which requires the notification of parents, it would seem unethical.

Parents of teens under the age of 18 have the right to be involved in any medical emergency. I also believe that it would serve the teens that they be held accountable by accepting the consequences of drinking under age. I would ask you to accept this addition to the law to best serve the citizens of Kansas.

Very sincerely,

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