



**Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association
Supporting Testimony
House Bill 2059
Scott J. Schneider J.D.
House Federal and State Affairs
Tuesday, January 31st, 2023**

Chair and members of the committee, the Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association supports House Bill 2059. This is a narrowly tailored change that allows a more efficient use of resources while maintaining the underlying integrity of the common consumption law.

The common consumption area was introduced into law a little over 5 years ago in 2017. At that time the State Supreme Court upheld the longstanding liquor liability laws and our communities were busy designing spaces for the public to enjoy the intersection of hospitality and outdoor activities. Communities all across Kansas found ways to experiment with a blended style of family entertainment from the Public Market at Lenexa City Center, Old Town in Wichita to Kansas Avenue in Topeka. Cities and towns in between are trying to get people to enjoy creative outdoor activities.

These common consumption areas have embraced the newer rules and the industry partners have become comfortable with these public entertainment areas. In fact, these areas arguably have more local police eyes and ears than more traditional venues as the general liability lies with the City authorizing the common consumption areas.

Kansas restaurant licenses are down nearly 800 after the Covid. Americans seem as divided as we have ever been. It is appropriate and even proper to share a beer while enjoying an outdoor concert, community event or watching the joy of kids ice skating.

Thank you for your consideration of our position.

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