



Kansas Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free
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STATEMENT OF MICHELLE VOTH,
Co-Chair, *Kansas Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free,*
On Passage of HB 2412 Which Applies Kansas Social
Hosting Law to Minors

April 5, 2007

More than half of Kansas teens have used alcohol. They have put their health, safety and lives at risk. One way to prevent them from consuming alcohol is to ensure that they can't drink it in their home or anyone else's. This is the purpose of our social hosting law and now that law has the potential to be stronger and more effective.

Last month, the Kansas House of Representatives took a principled stand and moved to protect Kansas youth by amending Kansas Social Hosting law so that it applies to all minors, that is, anyone under the age of 21. The Senate will not consider this legislation until next year when the legislature reconvenes. When that opportunity presents itself, I hope they will show the same concern for the well-being of our state's youth.

This bill is critical to fixing the flaw in our social hosting law, which currently applies only to young people under 18. Amending the law so that it applies to all minors will bring make it consistent with our underage drinking laws and go a long way in helping our youth avoid the dangers of underage drinking.

All Kansans owe a debt of gratitude to Representative Peggy Mast, who sponsored the bill that will strengthen our social hosting law. We look forward to praising our state Senators when they reconvene for showing the same resolve and good judgment.

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More information about social hosting is available at www.kansasfamily.com/getinvolved-ksleadership.cfm.

The Kansas Leadership Committee to Keep Children Alcohol Free is working to educate and change the public's perception of underage drinking. With information distribution through movie slide advertising, public service announcements and working with partners across the state, Kansans will see that underage drinking is not a "Rite Of Passage." A statewide committee of local, regional, and state representatives have joined to establish the Kansas Leadership to Keep Children Alcohol Free Initiative.