

# National Alliance to Prevent Underage Drinking

March 17, 2022

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2083 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2413 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Joyce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2065 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Roybal-Allard, Representative Joyce and Representative DeLauro:

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to thank you for introducing the Sober Truth on Preventing (STOP) Underage Drinking Reauthorization Act. Congress passed the original STOP Act in 2006 and reauthorized it in Section 9016 of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act (P.L. 114-255) in 2016.

It is clear that, since its original passage, the comprehensive approach of the STOP Act has been effective at reducing underage drinking: the most recent (2021) Monitoring the Future (MTF) Study found that lifetime alcohol use by 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders is at historic lows for all three grades. In fact, these levels are the lowest since each grade was included in the study (1975 for 12<sup>th</sup> graders and 1991 for 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders).

These results are being accelerated across the nation in communities through the work of STOP Act local coalition grantees:

- In Clinton, TN, ASAP Anderson saw past-30-day alcohol use among high school students decrease from 19.0% in 2012 to 4.2% in 2020, a rate of 77.9%.
- In Lisbon, OH, the Alcohol Drug Abuse Prevention Team Coalition saw past-30-day alcohol use among high school students decrease from 32.9% in 2011 to 25.7% in 2018, a rate of 21.9%.
- In Plymouth, MA, the Plymouth Youth Development Collaborative saw past 30-day alcohol use among high school students decrease from 52.2% in 2007 to 25.9% in 2018, a rate of 50.4%.
- In Washougal, WA, the Unite! Washougal Community Coalition saw past 30-day-alcohol use among high school students decrease from 34.0% in 2014 to 31.9% in 2018, a rate of 6.2%.

Despite the success of the STOP Act in helping to reduce underage drinking, the MTF Study found that alcohol remains the most prevalent illegal drug among youth. Reauthorizing the STOP Act in the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress is critical to further reducing rates of underage drinking. The STOP Act reauthorizes the following provisions.

## Community-Based Programs to Prevent Underage Drinking

- **Community Based Coalition Enhancement Grants** (\$11.5 million for each of fiscal years 2023 - 2027) for current and former Drug-Free Communities (DFC) grantees to implement more intensive strategies to reduce underage drinking.

### **Interagency Coordinating Committee and Annual State Report**

- ***Interagency Coordinating Committee; Annual Report on State Underage Drinking Prevention and Enforcement Activities*** (\$1 million for each of fiscal years 2023 – 2027) – reauthorizes the Interagency Coordinating Committee to Prevent Underage Drinking (ICCPUD) to coordinate the efforts and expertise of all Federal agencies involved in combatting underage drinking and reauthorizes the annual report to Congress on State efforts to address underage drinking.

### **National Media Campaign**

- ***National Media Campaign to Prevent Underage Drinking*** (\$2.5 million for each of fiscal years 2023 – 2027) – reauthorizes a highly visible adult-oriented media campaign which educates the public about the public health and safety benefits of evidence-based policies to reduce underage drinking and builds public and parental cooperation and support for such policies.

### **Reducing Underage Drinking through Screening and Brief Intervention**

- ***Grants to Pediatric Health Care Providers to Reduce Underage Drinking*** (\$3 million for each of fiscal years 2023 – 2027) which provides grants to pediatric provider organizations to educate pediatric health care providers on best practices for screening adolescents for alcohol use, offer brief interventions to discourage underage drinking, and referral to other care when needed.

### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

- ***Additional Research on Underage Drinking*** (\$5 million for each of fiscal years 2023 – 2027) – Provides for expansion of research capabilities for Excessive Alcohol Use which will allow for the collection of surveillance data on underage drinking at federal and state levels, working to monitor and report on youth exposure to alcohol advertising, and better dissemination of effective strategies to reduce underage drinking to states, communities and the general public.

In addition, this reauthorization adds a new provision for the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a review of the research literature regarding the influence of drinking alcohol on adolescent brain development and the public policy implications of this research (\$500 thousand for fiscal year 2023).

The investments called for by the STOP Act Reauthorization Act are proven, cost-effective, evidence-based strategies to reduce the \$24.3 billion toll that results from underage drinking. The undersigned organizations strongly support the reauthorization of the STOP Act. We thank you for introducing this critical legislation and for your leadership in preventing and reducing underage drinking.

Sincerely,

Addiction Policy Forum

Addiction Professionals of North Carolina (NC)

Alcohol Justice

Alcohol Research Group (CA)

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Public Health Association

American Society of Addiction Medicine

Behavioral Health Association of Providers

CADA of Northwest Louisiana (LA)

California Alcohol Policy Alliance

California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Providers (CA)

Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America

Community Coalitions Across Illinois (IL)

Community Coalitions of Virginia (VA)

Community Connections (WV)

Connecticut Certification Board (CT)

Consumer Federation of America

Drug Free America Foundation, Inc.

Florida Coalition Alliance (FL)

Foundation for Healthy Generations (WA)

Georgia Alcohol Policy Alliance (GA)

Institute for Behavior and Health, Inc.

International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium

Maine Public Health Association (ME)

Maryland Prevention Works Collaborative (MD)

Massachusetts Addiction Prevention Alliance (MA)

Massachusetts Alcohol Policy Coalition (MA)

Michigan Alcohol Policy Promoting Health and Safety (MI)

Monument Prevention (NE)

Mothers Against Prescription Drug Abuse

NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals

National Alcohol Beverage Control Association

National Association for Children of Addiction

National Council for Mental Wellbeing

National Liquor Law Enforcement Association

New York Association of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers

New York State Public Health Association (NY)

Partnership to End Addiction

Prevention Action Alliance (OH)

Prevention Alliance of Tennessee (TN)

Prevention Works!VT (VT)

Project Extra Mile (NE)

Safe States Alliance

Save Our Society From Drugs

Smart Approaches to Marijuana

Student Assistance Services Corporation

Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)

Substance Abuse Coalition Leaders of Arizona (AZ)

Treatment Communities of America

Trust for America's Health

U.S. Alcohol Policy Alliance

Washington State Public Health Association (WA)

WestCare Foundation

WestCare Texas (TX)