



July 20, 2004

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
The Honorable Mike DeWine  
The Honorable Christopher Dodd  
The Honorable Tom Osborne  
The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard  
The Honorable Zach Wamp  
The Honorable Frank Wolf

On behalf of Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) and the more than 5,000 coalition members we represent nationwide, I would like to express our support for the "Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking Act" (the STOP Underage Drinking Act). This bill, a bi-partisan, bi-cameral effort, represents an important step in our nation's efforts to combat underage alcohol use and abuse. We truly appreciate your leadership in sponsoring this bill and see it as a very positive sign that Congress intends to deal with the issue of underage drinking in a comprehensive manner that includes initiatives at the federal, state and community levels as well as on college campuses.

As you are well aware, underage drinking is a national problem affecting all of America's communities and many of our children. People who begin drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence as an adult than those who wait until age 21. It is imperative that a comprehensive, coordinated approach is implemented at all levels of government and in communities across the country so that underage drinking and its related consequences can be dramatically reduced.

Therefore, CADCA and our members across the nation, applaud your efforts to address the issues of underage drinking through the introduction and, hopefully, speedy passage of the STOP Underage Drinking Act.

Sincerely,

Arthur T. Dean  
Major General, U.S. Army, Retired  
Chairman and CEO