



UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN
3rd DISTRICT, NEBRASKA
TOM OSBORNE



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STOP Underage Drinking Act Introduced in House, Senate

Washington, D.C.— Rep. Osborne, joined by co-sponsors Senators Mike DeWine, Christopher Dodd, and Representatives Rosa DeLauro, Lucille Royball-Allard, Zach Wamp, and Frank Wolf, introduced bipartisan legislation aimed at preventing and reducing underage drinking. The STOP (Sober Truth on Preventing) Underage Drinking Act builds on key recommendations included in a report released by the Institute of Medicine and the National Academies of Science (NAS): “Reducing Underage Drinking—A Collective Responsibility.”

“Over 4 in 10 children will have consumed alcohol by the time they finish the eighth grade, and by the time they graduate from high school, that number will increase to over 7 in 10 children. As a society, we can no longer have a complacent attitude toward underage drinking if we want to stop the increased risk of harm that lasts well beyond our youth’s adolescent years.”

The legislation includes four major provisions:

Establishes federal coordination and reporting among agencies involved

- Creates an interagency coordinating committee to focus on underage drinking; chaired by the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS)
- Mandates the Secretary of HHS, on behalf of the committee, to submit an annual report to Congress that summarizes the programs designed to combat underage drinking
- Requires the Secretary of HHS to issue an annual “report card” to track performance of each state’s efforts

Authorizes a national media campaign against underage drinking

- Directs the Secretary of HHS to continue to fund and oversee the Ad Council’s public service campaign targeted to adults
- Requires the Secretary of HHS to provide an annual report to Congress detailing the effectiveness of the campaign in reducing underage drinking

Provides additional resources to prevent underage drinking

- Provides alcohol-specific enhancement grants in conjunction with the Drug Free Communities Program
- Creates a new program providing competitive grants to states, non-profit entities, and institutions of higher education to create state-wide coalitions to prevent underage drinking and binge drinking among students at institutions of higher education

Expands research and collects new data on underage drinking

- Increases federal research and data collection on underage drinking, including:
 - the short and long-range impact of alcohol use and abuse on adolescent brain development
 - evaluation of the community-based and statewide programs designed to prevent underage drinking
 - more precise information on the type and quality of alcohol beverages consumed by underage drinkers

The legislation also includes H.Res. 575, a provision that calls on the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and its member colleges and universities to uphold their commitment of discouraging alcohol use among underage students and other young fans by ending all alcohol advertising during radio and television broadcasts of collegiate sporting events.

“I am pleased the STOP Underage Drinking Act includes a provision that discourages college and universities from continuing to take money from beer companies whose ads glamorize drinking and target a youthful audience, and then devoting time, energy, and resources in their fight to prevent the same students from engaging in underage and binge drinking. As long as students continue to learn and grow in this type of an environment, colleges and universities will continue to face an uphill battle in eliminating the ‘drink to get drunk’ mentality prevalent among nearly half of college students. Something must be done, and a commitment by the NCAA and member organizations to stop airing alcohol ads is a step in the right direction.”

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