



March 29, 2017

**Alcohol Action Alert
Call your Representative to Oppose
HB 494 Underage Drinking**



- **HB 494 would allow 18-20 year olds to possess and consume beer and wine in a restaurant if they are with their parents, grandparents, step parents, or legal guardians.** This is wrong on so many levels and sends the wrong message to children and adults.
- Many teens have different last names than a parent or step parent. **How will restaurant owners and servers know the adults at the table are the actual parent, step parent, grant parent or guardian?**
- **Beer and wine are alcohol.** If these types of alcohol are approved, **the Legislature could later change the bill to allow underage drinking of distilled spirits.**
- Underage drinking is dangerous, not only for the drinker but also for society. **Each year, approximately 5,000 young people under the age of 21 die as a result of underage drinking;** this includes about 1,900 deaths from motor vehicle crashes, 1,600 as a result of homicides, 300 from suicide, as well as hundreds from other injuries such as falls, burns, and drowning. (*National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism*)
- The brain is developing and growing until young people are in their mid 20's. **Exposing the brain to alcohol during this period may interrupt key processes of brain development, possibly leading to subtle learning impairments as well as to further escalation of drinking.** (Underage Drinking, A Growing Health Concern, NIAAA)

- The minimum drinking age of 21 was established to protect the health and safety of young people and to safeguard the public. **Research shows minimum legal drinking age laws have had positive effects primarily in decreasing traffic crashes and fatalities, suicide, binge drinking, and decreased consumption of alcohol by those under the age of 21.** (National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism)
- **HB 494 undermines the minimum drinking law and should be rejected.**

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. **HB 494 is on third reading and could be called for a vote in the House at any time. Call your [State Representative](#) and ask him/her to **Vote NO on HB 494.** (217-782-2000)**
2. **Share this Alert** with your faith community and ask them to CALL and PRAY.
3. **Forward** to 10 others.

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