

MAR 21 2006
Laid Over Under Rule 25

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 146

BY SMITH and UPMEYER

A Resolution designating March 23, 2006, through April 10, 2006, as "Underage Drinking Prevention Days" in Iowa.

WHEREAS, the consumption of alcoholic beverages by persons who are under the legal age to purchase or possess such beverages is a critical health and safety issue in this nation and in Iowa; and

WHEREAS, forty-seven percent of persons between 12 and 20 years of age reported drinking alcohol within the past year in a nationwide survey conducted in 2004; and

WHEREAS, twenty-nine percent of persons between 12 and 20 years of age reported drinking alcohol within the last month; and

WHEREAS, twenty-six percent of persons between 12 and 20 years of age reported heavy alcohol use or binge drinking within the last month; and

WHEREAS, forty-four percent of Iowa's eleventh grade students participating in the 2002 Iowa Youth Survey reported drinking alcohol within the last month and 18 percent of eighth grade students reported drinking alcohol within the last month; and

WHEREAS, thirty-six percent of Iowa's eleventh grade students participating in the 2002 Iowa Youth Survey reported drinking five or more drinks in a row, commonly known as "binge drinking", within the last month; and

WHEREAS, alcohol use is a leading risk factor in the three main causes of death among youth: motor

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1 vehicle accidents, homicide, and suicide; and

2 WHEREAS, operating while intoxicated (OWI) arrest
3 rates for persons under 18 years of age had been
4 steadily declining since 1997, when the arrest rate
5 was 48 per 100,000 Iowa youth residents, to 2001, when
6 the arrest rate had fallen to 37 arrests per 100,000
7 Iowa youth residents, but increased sharply to 47
8 arrests per 100,000 Iowa youth residents in 2002; and

9 WHEREAS, other adverse consequences of underage
10 drinking include risky sexual behavior and poor school
11 performance; and

12 WHEREAS, in addition to death, injury, pain, and
13 suffering, underage drinking results in staggering
14 social and economic costs for Iowa, including an
15 estimated direct cost of \$229 million in 2001 for
16 medical care and lost wages, and another \$406 million
17 for indirect costs; and

18 WHEREAS, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health
19 Services Administration of the United States
20 Department of Health and Human Services has
21 coordinated a nationwide effort for communities to
22 hold town hall style meetings on or around March 28,
23 2006, to raise awareness of the issue of underage
24 drinking and to alert and empower communities; and

25 WHEREAS, at least 38 Iowa communities will be
26 holding town hall style meetings from March 23, 2006,
27 through April 10, 2006; NOW THEREFORE,

28 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
29 That the House of Representatives designates March 23,
30 2006, through April 10, 2006, as "Underage Drinking

1 Prevention Days" in Iowa.

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