

Social Host Talking Points

- 1. Georgia needs an amendment to the current law as related to underage access and consumption of alcohol because private parties have repeatedly been identified as the primary source by which minors obtain alcohol; frequently lacking adult supervision and often a source of other drug use, risky sexual behaviors, violence and vandalism.** Enacting this law would send a clear message to parents, adults and youth that allowing underage drinking to occur on property they control is unacceptable in Georgia.
- 2. Alcohol causes more harm and death for youth than all illegal drugs, combined.** There are also serious second hand effects of underage drinking, endangering public health, safety and quality of life, such as;
 - 50% of alcohol related traffic fatalities with drinking driver under age 21 - the dead are persons other than the drinking driver; and
 - 50% of criminal cases (assault, traffic, fraud, theft, sex crimes, etc.) in the juvenile justice system involve alcohol.The cost to Georgia citizens from underage drinking in 2010 was \$1.4 billion.
- 3. In the past decade, about 35 states have passed "social host" laws. Currently all contiguous states to Georgia (AL, FL, MS, SC & TN) have such laws.** Current research reports social host laws in general as among the most effective forms of public policy in reducing binge drinking and drinking and driving.
- 4. Under current laws in Georgia, law enforcement has the burden of directly identifying who provided to said minor.** Georgia State Law O.C.G.A. 3-3-23 & 3-3-5 provides a "parental exception" which allows alcohol consumption by a person under age 21 under certain conditions; when the parent or guardian of the person gives the alcohol to the person while in the home of the parent or guardian and while such parent or guardian is present. Georgia law does not allow parents to give alcohol to their children's friends who are under age 21, under any circumstances, even in their own home, even with their parent's permission. **A new social host/teen party law would help clarify the "parental exception" in Georgia's current underage drinking law and alleviate the challenge of identifying who directly provided to the minor.**
- 5. Enacting this law would encourage parents to take steps to prevent teenage drinking parties while they are away thus helping to reduce harms, crimes and costs attributed to underage drinking.**