



MADD

Activism | Victim Services | Education

Mothers Against Drunk Driving
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To: Representative Ed Casso
 State Capitol
 Denver, Colorado 80203
 From: Emily Tompkins, MADD Colorado
 RE: MADD's Position on House Bill 10-1279

March 22, 2010

Dear Representative Casso,

MADD opposed the first draft of HB 1279 because of the increased access to alcohol for youth under the legal drinking age. In its original form, HB 1279 didn't specify minimum age requirements for employees to handle alcohol and do things such as sell or dispense alcohol, check identification cards, and make deliveries within the customary parking area for customers. More than 6,000 youth die annually due to alcohol-related causes such as homicides, suicides, car crashes and unintentional injuries. Greater retail and social access to alcohol for those under 21 will only worsen the problem. Youth should not be put in a position in which there is great temptation and ability to provide alcohol to others who are under the legal drinking age.

We at MADD want greater supervision over youth handling alcohol to ensure they don't have easy access to alcohol. Therefore, MADD's official position is neutral on HB 1279 contingent upon the passing of amendment 12-47-901 which states:

(B) IT IS LAWFUL FOR A RETAIL LIQUOR STORE OR LIQUOR LICENSED DRUGSTORE TO EMPLOY PERSONS WHO ARE AT LEAST EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE TO HANDLE OR STOCK MALT, VINOUS, AND SPIRITUOUS LIQUORS IF THEY ARE UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION OF SOMEONE ON THE PREMISES WHO IS AT LEAST TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE. HOWEVER, NO EMPLOYEE UNDER TWENTY-ONE YEARS OF AGE SHALL BE PERMITTED TO SELL, CHECK AGE IDENTIFICATION, DELIVER, OR CARRY TO CUSTOMER'S VEHICLES, ANY MALT, VINOUS, OR SPIRITUOUS LIQUORS.

This amendment is equivalent to current regulations that retail liquor stores are held to and is critical to minimizing underage access to alcohol. This amendment ensures that Colorado youth will not see a great increase in access to alcohol, and therefore, increased preventable tragedies. I am grateful for your consideration of our youth and all of our safety in Colorado as you crafted this amendment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance at 303.425.5902 or emily.tompkins@madd.org

Respectfully,

Emily Tompkins
 State Executive Director
 MADD Colorado