

THE
CENTURY COUNCIL

DISTILLERS FIGHTING DRUNK DRIVING & UNDERAGE DRINKING

SENATE JUDICIARY
COMMITTEE NO. 9
DATE 1/20/11
BILL NO. SB339

January 19, 2011

The Honorable Jim Shockley
Senate Judiciary Committee
Box 200500
Helena, Montana 59620

RALPH BLACKMAN
President & CEO

Dear Chairman Shockley:

Board of Directors

Bacardi U.S.A., Inc.
Beam Global Spirits & Wine, Inc.
Brown-Forman
Constellation Brands, Inc.
DIAGEO
Hood River Distillers, Inc.
Pernod Ricard USA
Sidney Frank Importing Co., Inc.

National Advisory Board

The Honorable Michael R. Fields
Judge, Harris County Criminal Court #14

Dan Gwadosky
Chairman, National Alcohol Beverage
Control Association (NABCA)

Patrick B. Harr, M.D.
Former Chairman of the Board of Directors,
American Academy of Family Physicians

The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp
Former North Dakota Attorney General

Lisa Graham Keegan
Principal, Keegan Company
Former Superintendent of Public Instruction
State of Arizona

Robert L. King, J.D.
President
Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

Colonel Lonnie J. Westphal
Chief (Ret.) Colorado State Patrol
Former Vice President of IACP

Anthony E. Wolf, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychologist and Best Selling Author

The Century Council was founded in 1991 and is an independent, national not-for-profit organization headquartered in Arlington, Virginia. Funded by America's leading distillers (Bacardi U.S.A., Inc.; Beam Global Spirits and Wine, Inc.; Brown-Forman; Constellation Brands, Inc.; DIAGEO; Hood River Distillers, Inc.; Pernod Ricard USA; and Sidney Frank Importing Co., Inc.), the Council is dedicated to developing and implementing programs that fight drunk driving and underage drinking. To date, we have hosted more than 2,000 community events to launch our programs across the nation bringing them to millions of parents, youth, educators, law enforcement officials and traffic safety professionals.

Despite significant progress over the past 20 years, underage drinking is a complex issue that persists in communities across the nation. While individuals under the legal purchase age obtain alcohol from a variety of sources, the National Academy of Sciences states that parties, friends and adult purchasers are the most frequent sources of alcohol among college students and older adolescents, and younger adolescents often obtain alcohol from family members.

In fact, research conducted for The Century Council by Teenage Research Unlimited revealed that 65 percent of individuals between the ages of 10-18 who have consumed alcohol in the last year report obtaining their alcohol from family and friends.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 2007-2008 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health, 33 percent of 12-20 year olds surveyed reported alcohol consumption in the past month in Montana.

In 2009, there were 13 alcohol-impaired driving fatalities in Montana among those under 21, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Additionally, there were 65 arrests for DUI and 1,261 arrests for liquor law violations among people under the age of 18 in 2009 according to FBI Uniform Crime Report data.

The Century Council believes that a combination of effective penalties and comprehensive education coupled with public awareness efforts about the crucial

WASHINGTONIAN
GREAT PLACES TO WORK

role of parents will enhance each community's efforts to reduce underage drinking. Working to restrict access to alcohol by those under the legal purchase age is everyone's goal.

The Council supports effective and enforceable policies, such as those proposed in Senate Bill 39. This legislation would improve the state's current underage drinking prevention laws by allowing game wardens to issue Minor In Possession citations. The Century Council believes collective community action can have a greater impact than individual efforts. We urge the passage of Senate Bill 39.

If there is anything that The Century Council can do to support this effort, please contact Katie Ballard in the Council's Government Relations Department at 202-637-0077 or BallardK@CenturyCouncil.org. We stand ready to help you in the fight against underage drinking.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph Blackman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ralph Blackman
President & CEO