

Chris Allen

From: "Lana Allen" <lanniemarie@hotmail.com>
To: "chris allen" <betterhealth4u@blackfoot.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 29, 2011 8:47 PM
Subject: FW: HB 20

SENATE EDUCATION

EXHIBIT NO. 3

DATE 3-30-11

BILL NO. HB 20

Lana Allen
Pampered Chef Consultant
(406) 249-2810
www.pamperedchef.biz/lanniemarie

From: lanniemarie@hotmail.com
To: senatorwittich@montana.com
Subject: HB 20
Date: Wed, 30 Mar 2011 02:46:52 +0000

Mr. Wittich,

Hello. My name is Lana and I am a resident of Montana. I am writing you in support of HB 20. This bill I believe will help change the attitude residents of Montana have historically believed that drinking is an appropriate activity, no matter your age, as long as you do it at home or with adults. If we have a bill that criminalizes the behavior of hosting a party where minors are consuming alcohol, than it is harder to justify that they can drink as long as they are safe and not driving around. There has been a proven link between drinking at an early age and then having alcohol abuse issues as an adult, and Montana has had a long history of drinking as a family being a social norm. I would love to see this begin to change, and it starts with the new laws and then enforcing said laws. I thank you for your time.

Lana Allen
Pampered Chef Consultant
(406) 249-2810
www.pamperedchef.biz/lanniemarie

No virus found in this incoming message.

Checked by AVG.

Version: 8.0.541 / Virus Database: 271.14.151/3537 - Release Date: 3/29/2011 6:34 AM

From: Lowell Hochhalter <lowellh@mac.com>
Subject: **letter 1**
Date: March 28, 2011 9:59:49 AM MDT
To: Krista Standeford <kristastandeford@me.com>

I am a Project SUCCESS counselor for a rural High School here in Montana. I am writing to voice my support for HB20 which gives the county the ability to intervene on those adults that provide people under 21 a place to consume alcohol. Our community, similar to many rural communities in our great state, is dealing with very high rates of underage substance use and parents supportive attitudes of such use. Every day I meet with high school students who talk to me about their drinking and the resulting consequences. I have had a handful of female students describe date rape situations happening when they are under the influence, and often they blame themselves because they were drunk. Some of these girls were victims of men 18 and over who supplied them the alcohol. One student admitted her mom purchased alcohol and allowed she and her friends to drink at their home, and then called the daughter at 2:30 in the morning to pick her up from the bar, even though the daughter was under the influence. Several teens have had to go to the ER for symptoms of alcohol poisoning. Students have admitted to committing vandalism and other crimes they have never been caught for, costing the members of this community money. The "safe" places parents in this community are providing for our youth to illegally consume alcohol are not safe at all. The use of alcohol by our youth is resulting in rape, violence, injury, vandalism, decreased school performance, increased risks for future addiction problems, and financial costs to the community. Please help us put a stop to underage drinking in our community by allowing law enforcement to intervene on those parents who are supporting and providing for it, before we lose another student as a result of alcohol use. Thank you for consideration and support.

Kristie Howard, LCSW, LAC
Project SUCCESS Frenchtown High School
(406) 626.2772

From: Lowell Hochhalter <lowellh@mac.com>
Subject: **letter 3**
Date: March 28, 2011 10:14:02 AM MDT
To: Krista Standeford <kristastandeford@me.com>

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Lisa Adler. I am a parent of a 17 yr. old daughter. I am a school counselor working with youth in the Frenchtown School District. I am also a concerned citizen. My commitment to do all I can to curb or extinguish underage drinking is strong; however, my attempts are to no avail if other parents, community members, are purchasing or providing alcohol to our children. A person who provides a "location" for the drinking to take place, whether they provided the alcohol or not, is endangering the welfare of our children. This is criminal. Underage drinking is illegal. The strictest enforcement of all aspects of underage drinking should exist to reduce the negative consequences of such behavior. I support HB 20 and ask that you pass this bill for the safety of not only my child, but your children as well.

Hopefully,

Lisa Adler, M.A.

Concerned Parent and School Counselor

Frenchtown School District

From: Lowell Hochhalter <lowellh@mac.com>
Subject: letter 2
Date: March 28, 2011 10:14:45 AM MDT
To: Krista Standeford <kristastandeford@me.com>

Vanessa Gibson

PO Box 117

Frenchtown, MT 59834

March 28, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to ask you to support House Bill 20. This bill will soon come to a vote in the House of Representatives. I have been a school counselor at Frenchtown High School, in Frenchtown Montana for the last six years and have witnessed how a community can be entrenched in attitudes that negatively affect youth when it comes to underage drinking. Many community members feel that the way that it "has always been...kids drink as a part of growing up" so therefore it is permissible. I feel that we need to enact laws that will change behavior so our adults feel motivated to break cultural norms of supporting underage drinking and providing "safe places" for underage drinking.

The purpose of this bill is to allow counties more enforcement of the law to stop underage drinking and to curb those adults that provide underage drinkers a place to consume alcohol this state. Our local sheriff's department has been working very hard to stop underage drinking but needs more support and "teeth". Enacting a social host ordinance county wide would be the "teeth" necessary to enforce our laws against underage drinking. We recently had a senior skip day at our school and 62 out of 82 seniors took the day off with and without parental permission. Many parents supported their student's skipping school and drinking at a student's home because their parents were there and it was a "safe" place. I understand this thinking but I feel that we need to change the idea that this behavior is permissible and HB20 will allow law enforcement to produce a consequence that could change behavior.

If this bill does not pass and Missoula City passes a social host ordinance then there is fear that more parties will move outside of city limits and right into our neighborhood thus perpetuating the attitude of "Frenchtown is the place to party." Please help us keep our children safe and change attitudes towards hosting a party for underage drinkers.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Gibson

Frenchtown High School Counselor

To: Whom It May Concern

From: Lowell Hochhalter, Coordinator
Frenchtown Community Coalition
Frenchtown, Montana 59834

Re: HB20

I am writing in SUPPORT of HB20. If you consider the welfare of the children of Montana, there is absolutely no question that an in favor vote of HB20 is the ONLY way. County Law Enforcement Officials need this legislation in place to appropriately fulfill the requirements of their jobs.

This Bill holds in its contents the ability to change the cultural norms and the environmental acceptance of this "anti-social" "life threatening" epidemic of underage substance abuse and use.

As you consider and vote on HB20 think of the welfare of the children of Montana and you decision will be easy and without doubt and regret! You hold history in your hands today, do not let the children of Montana down!

Sincerely,

Lowell E. Hochhalter
Frenchtown Community Coalition
406-529-6914

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jake Haynes, I am a high school counselor at Frenchtown High School. I am writing to state my full support of HB20. As High School Counselor I see the consequences of alcohol abuse on students. Without a doubt it affects student's family life, peer relations, school work and their overall ability to make good decisions.

HB20 will give law enforcement the ability to penalize those that chose to provide alcohol to minors and allow them a place of refuge to party. As a counselor I have witnessed some members of the community providing alcohol in their homes to students. They feel this provides safety in partying. NOT SO! Parents and those that chose to harbor minors need to know this is wrong and it does not make it safe.

I firmly believe HB20 will make our community safer. Those that are allowing underage drinking are providing opportunities for our children to be unsafe and make poor decisions. They must be held accountable.

I believe our children and students must be protected. HB20 is the protection needed!

Respectfully Submitted,

Jake Haynes

Counselor Frenchtown High School