



MADD

Activism | Victim Services | Education®

Mothers Against Drunk Driving
CONNECTICUT STATE OFFICE
19 Bernhard Road
North Haven, CT 06473
Phone (203)752-3273
Fax (203)752-3275
MADDCONN@SBCglobal.net

Members of the Judiciary Committee
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**MADD CONNECTICUT Strongly Endorses Committee Bill No. 5211
“AN ACT CONCERNING UNDERAGE DRINKING”**

Good Afternoon, my name is Alana Flanagan. I am a sophomore at Hamden Hall Country Day School in Hamden, CT and volunteer on the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Advisory Board- New Haven Country Chapter. Thank you for letting me testify on behalf of Bill 5211, an “Act Concerning Underage Drinking.”

Please consider these facts:

- 61% of teen drinking happens at parties in their own or friends’ homes.
- While the national age average of when kids start drinking is 13, Connecticut’s average is 11- exceeding the national average of 26%.
- 47% of Connecticut 9th and 10th graders report using alcohol in the last 30 days, and 61% of seniors report using alcohol at least once a month.

I have experienced my friends under the influence of alcohol- they always do something they regret, whether something as petty as embarrassing themselves, or as serious as endangering others.

With this bill, the host and minor will be accountable for the intoxication of the minor. As a young person, I understand that most teens will refrain from drinking at house parties when they know there is a possible consequence. As you can see, drinking is a huge problem, and cannot be ignored any more. Something must be done to help Connecticut’s youth. Thank you again for this opportunity.