

HB 5211 An Act Concerning Underage Drinking

I am eighteen and invincible. I can go to a party and drink alcohol without getting in trouble. As long as I don't drive home, I won't be arrested. I can have a wild time without worrying about being caught. If the police do show up, too bad for them, it's not illegal for me to have alcohol at my friend's house on private property.

Who cares if people get hurt at these parties? It can't possibly happen to me. There's no harm in losing my inhibitions in alcohol; I won't get pregnant because I'm not going to have sex...or, wait, if I lose my inhibitions maybe I will have sex. OK, so I'll get protection and then it's alright to lose inhibitions. Alcohol won't permanently change my life, that only happens to other kids; I'll just have a few drinks with my friends so we can have a good time. No one will get hurt or in trouble, and we'll all have crazy stories for school on Monday. It can't be that bad if it isn't illegal.

I am a teenager. This is how we think; this is how we feel. If you want us to stop our reckless drinking, you need to stop giving us the idea that it's acceptable. Show us that it is not OK to party with alcohol. Pass HB 5211 and prove to me that underage drinking is dangerous.

Maureen Ryder
Durham Resident
College Freshman
maureen.ryder@gmail.com