

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4453

To establish a grant to increase enforcement of laws to prohibit underage drinking through social sources, to improve reporting of Federal underage drinking data, to establish grants to increase parental involvement in school-based efforts to reduce underage drinking, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 11, 2007

Mr. TOWNS (for himself, Mr. WHITFIELD, Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. PORTER, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. WYNN, and Mr. GORDON of Tennessee) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To establish a grant to increase enforcement of laws to prohibit underage drinking through social sources, to improve reporting of Federal underage drinking data, to establish grants to increase parental involvement in school-based efforts to reduce underage drinking, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Underage Drinking  
3 Prevention Act of 2007”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds as follows:

6 (1) While underage drinking has been on the  
7 decline for more than 20 years, the consumption of  
8 beverage alcohol by underage youth is an ongoing  
9 national concern. According to the Substance Abuse  
10 and Mental Health Services Administration, 10.8  
11 million Americans between the ages of 12 to 20 for  
12 whom alcohol is illegal report current alcohol use,  
13 approximately 28 percent of that age group.

14 (2) Data from the National Academy of  
15 Sciences/Institute of Medicine, the Federal Trade  
16 Commission, the Century Council and the American  
17 Medical Association show that most youth who drink  
18 obtain alcohol primarily through noncommercial  
19 sources, such as family and friends.

20 (3) According to research conducted by Teen-  
21 age Research Unlimited (TRU) for the Century  
22 Council, 10–18 year olds say parents and school  
23 teachers should begin discussing the dangers and  
24 consequences of underage drinking with children by  
25 age 11.

1           (4) The role of parents in reducing underage  
2 drinking, particularly among middle-school aged  
3 children, is critical. Numerous studies confirm the  
4 crucial role parents play in shaping the behavior and  
5 decisionmaking skills of their children. For example,  
6 a study reported in Health Education and Behavior,  
7 February 2001, suggests that parental involvement  
8 is associated with a 67 percent less likelihood of  
9 drinking.

10           (5) The Surgeon General’s 2007 Call to Action  
11 to Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking recog-  
12 nizes that significant social transitions, such as mov-  
13 ing from elementary school to middle school or from  
14 middle school to high school may increase the likeli-  
15 hood that adolescents will use alcohol, in part be-  
16 cause they increase adolescent stress levels. Addi-  
17 tionally, evidence shows that youth who spend more  
18 time engaged in volunteering, sports, music, aca-  
19 demics and leadership are less likely to engage in  
20 risky behaviors, such as alcohol use.

21           (6) According to a 2004 study published in the  
22 Journal of Adolescent Health, “Adults’ Approval  
23 and Adolescents’ Alcohol Use,” one in five teens re-  
24 ported drinking alcohol that was provided by a par-  
25 ent or a friend’s parent at a party. Additionally, re-

1       searchers found that such provision of alcohol sig-  
2       nificantly increased the likelihood of regular and  
3       binge drinking.

4               (7) A 2003 report submitted to Congress by the  
5       National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine  
6       recommended that underage drinking cannot be suc-  
7       cessfully addressed by focusing on youth alone. Two  
8       out of three teens (aged 13 to 18) said it is easy to  
9       get alcohol from their homes without their parents  
10      knowing it. Thirty-three percent of teens responded  
11      that it is easy to obtain alcohol from their own par-  
12      ents (knowingly); this increases to 40 percent when  
13      it is from a friend's parent.

14              (8) The Surgeon General's 2007 Call to Action  
15      to Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking supports  
16      holding adults accountable for underage drinking at  
17      house parties, even when those adults are not at  
18      home.

19              (9) In nearly 20 States, legislatures are consid-  
20      ering bills to increase penalties for adults who pro-  
21      vide alcohol to people under the age of 21. Those  
22      penalties include higher fines, driver's license sus-  
23      pensions and even jail.

24              (10) The Surgeon General's 2007 Call to Ac-  
25      tion to Prevent and Reduce Underage Drinking in-

1 includes the need for complete and timely information  
2 on patterns and trends in youth alcohol consumption  
3 in order to develop and evaluate prevention strate-  
4 gies. Additionally, reports from the General Account-  
5 ing Office and the Department of Health and  
6 Human Services demonstrate the need for better  
7 data collection and effective evaluation of on-going  
8 programs.

9 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF THE CONGRESS.**

10 It is the sense of the Congress that:

11 (1) Understanding which programs are effective  
12 in reducing underage drinking will maximize scarce  
13 Federal resources and help the nation confront un-  
14 derage drinking in a more effective and cost-efficient  
15 manner and enable local communities to implement  
16 the most effective tactics to reduce underage drink-  
17 ing.

18 (2) Evaluation is necessary. Therefore the Sub-  
19 stance Abuse and Mental Health Services Adminis-  
20 tration should explore ways to expand and improve  
21 evaluation efforts while preserving and continuing  
22 current programs and funding in the interest of  
23 achieving maximum effectiveness.

24 (3) The Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
25 Services Administration should continue to improve

1 evaluation efforts and national outcome measures  
2 (NOMS) reporting in the Substance Abuse Preven-  
3 tion and Treatment Block Grant and other grant  
4 programs, when appropriate.

5 (4) Federal agencies should strive to evaluate  
6 all federally funded underage drinking programs and  
7 modify programs as needed to reach maximum effec-  
8 tiveness in reducing underage drinking.

9 **SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC EDUCATION GRANTS**  
10 **TO REDUCE SOCIAL SOURCES OF UNDERAGE**  
11 **DRINKING.**

12 (a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are  
13 to—

14 (1) increase enforcement of underage drinking  
15 that occurs at house parties across the nation and  
16 instances of adults providing alcohol to people under  
17 age 21;

18 (2) inform the public of the legal consequences  
19 of providing alcohol to people under the minimum  
20 drinking age of 21;

21 (3) educate the public that the majority of peo-  
22 ple who drink underage are obtaining their alcohol  
23 from social sources such as family and friends; and

1           (4) enhance, not supplant, effective local com-  
2           munity initiatives for enforcing underage drinking  
3           laws.

4           (b) AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAM.—

5           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of  
6           Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs (in this  
7           section referred to as the “Director”) shall award  
8           grants to States and units of local government to  
9           implement and evaluate enforcement and public edu-  
10          cation programs aimed at reducing the provision of  
11          alcohol by social sources to underage drinkers as  
12          part of the Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws Pro-  
13          gram.

14          (2) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds pro-  
15          vided under this section shall be used to supplement  
16          and not supplant funds expended for existing pro-  
17          grams related to the prevention of underage drink-  
18          ing and the enforcement of underage drinking laws.

19          (c) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
20          under subsection (a), a State or unit of local government,  
21          or a consortia of States or such units, shall prepare and  
22          submit to the Director an application at such time, in such  
23          manner, and containing such information as the Director  
24          may require, which shall include—

1           (1) a description of the activities to be carried  
2           out under the grant; and

3           (2) an assurance that the applicant will evalu-  
4           ate its program and submit a report to the Director  
5           concerning the effectiveness of the programs and ac-  
6           tivities carried out under the grant.

7           (d) USES OF FUNDS.—Each State or unit of local  
8           government that receives a grant under this section shall  
9           use the grant funds to carry out the activities described  
10          in the application submitted by such State or unit under  
11          subsection (c).

12          (e) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 6  
13          percent of a grant awarded under this section may be ex-  
14          pended for administrative expenses.

15          (f) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “social  
16          source” means a noncommercial individual (including fam-  
17          ily members, friends or other individuals) who inten-  
18          tionally provide or serve alcohol to underage drinkers or  
19          knowingly allow underage drinking to occur on property  
20          they own, lease or otherwise control (recognizing that  
21          State laws do provide exceptions for some individuals  
22          under certain circumstances).

23          (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
24          are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
25          \$10,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 and 2009,

1 and such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent  
2 fiscal year.

3 **SEC. 5. IMPROVED DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
5 Human Services, in his role as Chair of the Interagency  
6 Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of Underage  
7 Drinking authorized in section 519B(c) of the Public  
8 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–25b(c)), shall work  
9 with members of such Committee to improve Federal col-  
10 lection of data related to underage drinking by ensuring  
11 that federally funded surveys related to underage drinking  
12 collect and report data in a consistent manner to accu-  
13 rately reflect underage drinking that allows users of such  
14 data to—

15 (1) compare the results of surveys conducted  
16 and reports issued by various entities; and

17 (2) isolate such data with respect to the demo-  
18 graphic category of individuals who are under the  
19 age of 21.

20 (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL DATA COLLEC-  
21 TION IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
23 Human Services, in his role as Chair of the Inter-  
24 agency Coordinating Committee on the Prevention of  
25 Underage Drinking, shall establish a Federal data

1 improvement committee with representatives from  
2 each member of the Interagency Coordinating Com-  
3 mittee.

4 (2) COMMITTEE TASKS.—In working to improve  
5 Federal data collection on underage drinking, the  
6 Federal data improvement committee under para-  
7 graph (1) shall undertake the following efforts in ad-  
8 dition to any other tasks requested by the Secretary:

9 (A) The committee shall review ways to  
10 preserve trend data while simultaneously in-  
11 creasing the consistency of data collection.

12 (B) The Committee shall review all Fed-  
13 eral data collected on underage drinking and  
14 ensure that all data collected allows for the de-  
15 mographic breakdown of data related to individ-  
16 uals who are under the age of 21.

17 (C) The Committee shall review State data  
18 that is made available from research conducted  
19 or supported by States, that is gathered in  
20 whole or in part with the use of Federal funds  
21 to ensure timely reporting and publishing of  
22 State data on underage drinking.

23 (D) The Committee shall establish short-  
24 term and long-term goals with respect to im-  
25 proving Federal data collection not later than

1           one year after the date of the enactment of this  
2           Act.

3           (E) The Committee shall consult with  
4           States, public and private entities (including in-  
5           stitutions of higher education), public health  
6           and consumer organizations, the beverage alco-  
7           hol industry, and other users of Federal data  
8           on underage drinking with respect to the use of  
9           such Federal data and recommendations for im-  
10          provements to the collection and reporting of  
11          such Federal data.

12 **SEC. 6. GRANTS TO INCREASE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN**  
13           **SCHOOL-BASED EFFORTS TO PREVENT UN-**  
14           **DERAGE DRINKING.**

15          (a) AUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAM.—

16           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education  
17           shall award grants on a competitive basis to local  
18           educational agencies to develop and implement inno-  
19           vative and effective programs to increase parental  
20           awareness and involvement in reducing underage  
21           drinking in elementary and secondary schools.

22           (2) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds pro-  
23           vided under this section shall be used to supplement  
24           and not supplant funds expended for the Safe and  
25           Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act

1 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
2 under subsection (a), a local educational agency shall pre-  
3 pare and submit to the Secretary an application at such  
4 time, in such manner, and containing such information as  
5 the Secretary may require. Such application shall in-  
6 clude—

7 (1) a description of the activities to be carried  
8 out under the grant;

9 (2) an assurance that such activities will meet  
10 the principles of effectiveness described in section  
11 4115 of the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Com-  
12 munities Act (20 U.S.C. 7115); and

13 (3) an assurance that the applicant will evalu-  
14 ate its program and submit a report to the Secretary  
15 concerning the effectiveness of the programs and ac-  
16 tivities carried out under the grant.

17 (c) HIGHLIGHT EXISTING EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS.—  
18 The Secretary shall identify existing, effective, national  
19 programs that increase interaction between parents and  
20 children to prevent underage drinking, and shall dissemi-  
21 nate information on those programs to local educational  
22 agencies as model programs for replication at the local  
23 level.

1       (d) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Not more than 6  
2 percent of a grant awarded under this section may be ex-  
3 pended for administrative expenses.

4       (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
5 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
6 \$5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 and 2009,  
7 and such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent  
8 fiscal year.

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