

## **Support passage of a Social Host Law for New York City**

A Social Host Law is a powerful tool that our communities can embrace to reduce underage drinking and the related problems that occur with it.

Alcohol is the drug of choice for most under-21 year old youth, and it is a key contributor to the four leading causes of death among young people: traffic crashes, accidents, homicides and suicides. Parents and teens need to know that drinking before the age of 21 increases one's chances of developing alcoholism four-fold.

How will a Social Host Law help communities? Teens say that they can easily access alcohol within their own home or the homes of friends. According to 2011 Youth Development Survey for Throggs Neck High School youth, 20% reported they drink alcohol at home, 30% reported they drink alcohol at someone else's home and 12% reported they drink alcohol with parents' permission. The proposed Social Host Law (Int. No. 871) introduced by Councilman Peter Vallone, Jr., would make it illegal for any adult who owns, rents or otherwise controls a private residence to knowingly allow the consumption of alcohol by anyone under the age of 21 on their premises. There is evidence to suggest that in municipalities that have a Social Host Law, rates of driving while under the influence and heavy drinking among all age groups have decreased.

How can you as a concerned citizen help?

1. Write a letter of support and/or contact your City Council member.
2. Get involved in a local community coalition such as TNCAP to work for passage of the law.
3. Write letters to the editor of your local newspaper about the harmful effects of underage drinking and the need for a Social Host Law.
4. Support existing laws that prohibit the sale of serving of alcohol to minors.

*It is past time to act; our youths' future is in our hands now.*