

By Representative Crow

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30  
31

## House Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States, requesting that Congress conduct hearings on the life-threatening problems of underage drinking and drunk driving.

WHEREAS, underage drinking and drunk driving are a serious problem that threatens the lives and safety of America's children and the security of America's families, and

WHEREAS, the news media routinely report horrific accounts of young people being killed and maimed throughout Florida and the nation due to underage drinking and drunk driving, and

WHEREAS, at the Alcohol Policies XI Conference held in May 1998, General Barry McCaffrey, director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy, provided the assessment that "there is no question that the worst drug among adolescents right now from any standpoint is alcohol," and

WHEREAS, United States Surgeon General David Satcher quotes the finding that "alcohol-related car crashes are a major cause of death for young people ages 15 to 24," and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Surgeon General cites that among teenagers, alcohol is used more frequently than all illicit drugs combined, and

WHEREAS, it is believed that underage drinking exacerbates the problem of drunk driving and other alcohol-related societal problems, and is a major factor in school dropout rates and poor academic performance, and

WHEREAS, despite the abundance of statistical evidence supporting the dangers of underage drinking, the most meaningful statistic is always the personal tragedy that

1 occurs whenever the loss of or injury to a single child is  
2 experienced as a result of underage drinking or drunk driving,  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, the problem of underage drinking and drunk  
5 driving remains out of control in Florida and in all other  
6 states, and

7 WHEREAS, the United States has been unable to  
8 adequately address this national problem and it is painfully  
9 obvious that much more needs to be done, and

10 WHEREAS, in the interest of bringing to an end the  
11 needless suffering of so many Florida residents and citizens  
12 throughout the United States who have fallen victim to this  
13 national dilemma, it is imperative that Floridians do  
14 everything in their power to get drunk drivers off the  
15 highways and to find a solution to the problem of underage  
16 drinking, and

17 WHEREAS, to this end, the Congress of the United States  
18 should undertake congressional hearings for the purpose of  
19 addressing the life-threatening problem of underage drinking  
20 and drunk driving with the goal of arriving at a comprehensive  
21 solution to this national problem, and

22 WHEREAS, the congressional hearings should have the  
23 following objectives:

24 1. Documentation of the actual magnitude, nature, and  
25 urgency of the underage drinking and alcohol-impaired driving  
26 problem in the United States.

27 2. Determination of the reasons for the  
28 ineffectiveness of current laws and programs.

29 3. Identification of the variations in current laws  
30 and programs within the various states and within communities.

31

1           4. Evaluation of a proposed concept by the Campaign  
2 for Alcohol-Free Kids that proposes the establishment of a  
3 Uniform National Code of Underage Drinking and Drunk Driving  
4 Control that will determine standards for a comprehensive,  
5 total-systems approach designed to assist all states and  
6 communities in bringing this problem under permanent control.

7           5. The convening of the top experts in the United  
8 States in the areas of underage drinking and drunk driving for  
9 the purpose of proposing and evaluating all possible solutions  
10 to this problem.

11           6. Development of comprehensive solutions and  
12 recommendations for evaluation by state legislatures.

13           WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Florida urges  
14 the undertaking of such hearings at the earliest possible  
15 date, NOW, THEREFORE,

16  
17 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

18  
19           That the Congress of the United States is requested to  
20 conduct hearings on the problem of underage drinking and drunk  
21 driving with the objectives set forth in this memorial.

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
23 sent to the President of the United States, the President of  
24 the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States  
25 House of Representatives, and to each member of the Florida  
26 delegation to the United States Congress.

27  
28  
29  
30  
31