



Montana PTA
PO Box 1269
Laurel, MT 59044-1269
Office Phone: 628-9007
E-mail: ptamontana@rbbmt.org
Website: www.montanapta.org

Montana PTA's Position Statement on Social Host Ordinances

Chartered 95 years ago, Montana PTA is the largest volunteer child advocacy organization in the state of Montana. We represent approximately 6,500 parents and child advocates in local PTA units across our vast state. We are strictly a non-partisan organization whose sole purpose is to promote the welfare of children and youth in schools. Montana PTA's mission statement is: We empower communities to work together for children and families through education, leadership, communication and advocacy. Montana PTA's vision statement is: "Montanan's working together for the future well-being of all children."

Montana PTA supports authorizing county social host liability ordinances that would prohibit adults from providing alcohol or allowing the consumption of alcohol in homes or in noncommercial property by youth under the age of twenty-one who are not their children.

Research identifies "social hosts", adults who furnish alcohol to minors under the age of twenty-one who are not their children, and/or knowingly allow underage drinking in private settings, as the primary site of alcohol availability, drinking games and binge drinking for our youth.

In addition, alcohol is the most abused substance for youth ages twelve to twenty. Underage drinking is directly linked in the deaths of approximately 5000 youth a year nationwide, increases the risk of detrimental effects on the developing brain, is linked to two-thirds of all sexual assaults including date rape, and contributes to a ten times higher incidence of physical assault and a twelve times higher incidence of unintentional injury.

We join this action to enable counties to enact social host laws to act as a deterrent through the assessment of fines, community service and/or jail time for "social hosts" providing or allowing the consumption of alcohol by minors on their property, if not their children.