

## Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD)

I am representing students who are opposed to others that choose to drive impaired due to alcohol or other substances. We support the positive decisions of others and help to encourage them to make the right choices when faced with a difficult decision.

When someone chooses to introduce alcohol or other impairing substances their reaction time can decrease greatly along with throwing off their depth perception, reduction of peripheral vision, hyperactivity, drowsiness, and a lack of awareness of surroundings and actions.

Driving under the influence accounts for more than 16,000 deaths every year in the U.S, one million injuries, and \$45 billion in costs, according to the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration.

DUI fatalities nearly double for young adults 18-20, although young adults are less likely to drive drunk their crash rates are substantially higher when they do. Relating to their inexperience as new drivers.

The 2002 National Survey on Drug Abuse shows that the rate of accidents resulting in impaired driving increases with each age, peaking at about 19 and generally decreases after the age of 20.

As you can see driving while under the influence is a real problem among adults and teens. Our DUI laws need to be stronger and enforced. By making the punishment greater more people will be inclined to call a taxi or designate a sober driver. Along with this I think adding more programs in schools to educate the students on the possible life-long effects of driving impaired will benefit greatly, if we can even stop one person from hurting another then this cause is worth it.

I support legislation that is in favor of increasing the DUI laws, and oppose bills of which due away with hardened punishment.

This document is in compliance with the Montana YMCA Youth Legislature Lobbyist Disclosure Policy