



Proclamation

By the Governor of Alabama

WHEREAS, the legal drinking age in the United States is 21. A recent national survey showed that most parents agree it should remain at 21 or be raised; most teens who drink get alcohol from "social" sources — parents of other teens, older siblings, and other relatives and friends; and

WHEREAS, National studies show that the proportion of high school seniors who drink has dropped 21 percent since laws established 21 as the minimum drinking age; and

WHEREAS, Research indicates that the human brain continues to develop into a person's early 20's, and that exposure of the developing brain to alcohol may have long-lasting effects on intellectual capabilities and may increase the likelihood of alcohol addiction.

WHEREAS, The age when drinking starts affects future drinking problems. For each year that the start of drinking is delayed, the risk of later alcohol dependence is reduced by 14 percent; and

WHEREAS, teen drinking can have serious health and safety consequences. People who provide alcohol to teens undermine the efforts of parents to protect their kids and are subject to legal consequences; serving alcohol to teens is unsafe, illegal and irresponsible; and

WHEREAS, We Don't Serve Teens, a national campaign to reduce teens' social sources of alcohol, is sponsored by a coalition of public and private sector organizations;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Riley, Governor of Alabama, do hereby proclaim September 10 through September 15, 2007, as

We Don't Serve Teens Week

in the State of Alabama and I call upon the citizens of Alabama to observe the week with appropriate activities and programs; further, I encourage the citizens of Alabama to seek information on how to reduce teens' social sources of alcohol.

Given Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the Office of the Governor at the State Capitol in the City of Montgomery on the 20th day of August 2007.



Governor Bob Riley

