EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PROCLAMATION

As Governor and as a parent of teenagers, I am very concerned about the serious consequences of underage drinking. Beyond the fact that it is illegal, this dangerous habit puts teenagers at risk for fatal alcohol poisoning, addiction, sexual exploitation and accidents caused by drunk driving. All too often, we know of someone or hear of stories of teens being injured or killed because of alcohol abuse.

Teens who drink not only endanger themselves but others as well. Unfortunately, more than sixty-two percent of eleventh graders admitted to drinking alcohol in a California Student Survey, and I believe these numbers call us to action. As parents and friends who care about our young people and want them to live long, healthy lives, we must discourage this destructive behavior.

As we recognize "We Don't Serve Teens Week," I encourage all Californians to join me in reducing teen drinking statewide. According to admitted drinkers ages ten to eighteen years old, sixty-five percent said they got their alcohol from family and friends. I ask those who serve alcohol to teens to stop immediately because they put teens at risk. In addition, I encourage parents to talk to their teens about the negative effects that alcohol has on their bodies and others.

Working together with families, government agencies and community groups, we can take a big step forward in reducing underage drinking. I appreciate everyone's efforts, and I am confident we will make a positive difference in the lives of our children.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim September 10 to 15, 2007, as "We Don't Serve Teens Week" in California.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 13th day of August 2007.

Arnold Schwarzenegger
GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA

Attest:

Debra Bowen
SECRETARY OF STATE