



State of New York

Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, the Empire State supports many national public awareness campaigns that address alcohol-related issues, including those which focus on the specific problem of teen drinking and its associated risks and dangers; and

Whereas, alcohol use by teens adversely affect thousands of families statewide and, over the years, we have witnessed the devastating effects that underage drinking can have on the lives of our youth; and

Whereas, research indicates that a young person who begins drinking before the age of 15 is four times more likely to develop a dependence on alcohol than a young person of the same age who chooses to abstain; and

Whereas, most teens who drink obtain alcohol from social sources – including at parties, on school campuses, from older friends, and from other adults; and

Whereas, the Federal Trade Commission has developed an educational campaign, “We Don’t Serve Teens” that provides information about the hazards of teen drinking and ways to reduce teenagers’ easy access to alcohol; and

Whereas, New York continues to send a loud and clear message that teen drinking is not accepted or tolerated in this state, especially when combined with driving, as teens are inexperienced drivers and underage drinking is a serious violation of the law, often with fatal results when a teen operates a vehicle; and

Whereas, it is critical that schools, families, government and private entities work together to decrease underage drinking by taking steps to eliminate teenagers’ access to alcohol and, furthermore, to discourage teens from drinking by educating them about the harmful effects of alcohol on their physical, emotional and mental well-being; and

Whereas, parents, teachers and caregivers play a vital role in influencing children’s behaviors, and while they can provide the knowledge and support that reinforces a child’s ability to make healthy decisions, it is also critical that entire communities work together to spread the message that underage drinking is risky, unhealthy and unsafe;

Now, Therefore, I, Eliot Spitzer, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby recognize September 2007 as

WE DON’T SERVE TEENS WEEK

in the Empire State.

Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at

the Capitol in the City of Albany this fifth day of
September in the year two thousand seven.



Governor

Richard A. Bunn
Secretary to the Governor