

Please Protect Our Youth

Dear _____,

We've heard some concerning news and thought you would like to know about it. The word on the street is that you might have knowingly allowed youth under age 21 to consume alcohol. This information is very troubling and, if true, we are politely asking you to stop!

You may have provided alcohol because you think "teens are going to drink anyway," or because they're "safe" under your watch. Research proves the opposite. There is no "responsible use" of alcohol by minors. Allowing minors to consume alcohol sends a message that some laws are meant to be broken. Additionally, adolescent drinking may bring about a host of dangers and lifelong ramifications. As adults, we must do everything in our power to protect youth and that means keeping alcohol out of their hands.

Traill County is working to eradicate underage drinking to protect our youth and our community's future. Most Traill County parents aren't providing alcohol to those under 21 or allowing consumption in their homes/on their property. Will you join this majority to help us keep area youth safe?

Here are just a few of the risks associated with underage drinking:

- **Health:** Because the brain is not yet fully developed and is very vulnerable during the teen years, youth who drink alcohol underage are much more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who wait until 21. Any quantity of alcohol can have damaging effects on the adolescent brain.
- **Safety:** Underage drinking is associated with increases in drug use, sexual activity, violence, and traffic crashes.
- **Legal:** North Dakota has strict laws against underage drinking, and you can be held personally responsible and sued for anything that happens as a result of your giving alcohol, or knowingly allowing minors to drink (Dram Shop Liability).

Sincerely, A Concerned Traill County Citizen