

American Council on Addiction and Alcohol Problems

Resolution in Support of Utah's HB155 (Changing the Legal BAC Limit from 0.08 to 0.05 for Standard DUI Violation)

Whereas, in 2015 in the United States, 10,265 people were killed in accidents involving alcohol-impaired drivers, accounting for nearly one-third (29%) of all traffic-related deaths; and ...

Whereas, in 2015 in Utah, 16% of motor vehicle traffic fatalities had a BAC of .08; and ...

Whereas, in 2015, a total of 1,132 children age 14 and younger were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes in the United States. Of these 1,132 fatalities, 181 children (16%) died in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes; and ...

Whereas, deaths and damages from alcohol-related vehicle crashes contribute to a nationwide cost of \$44 billion dollars per year; and ...

Whereas, research shows that by the time their blood alcohol content (BAC) has reached 0.05 percent, most drivers experience a decline in both cognitive and visual functions, which significantly increases the risk of a serious crash; and ...

Whereas, more than 100 countries on six continents have BAC limits set at 0.05 or lower; and ...

Whereas, the National Transportation Safety Board in May 2013 began calling for all 50 states to lower their legal BAC limits from 0.08 to 0.05, as part of its "Roadmap to Reaching Zero: Actions to Reduce Alcohol-Impaired Driving" initiative; and ...

Whereas, George Van Komen, MD, Chairman of the former Alcohol Policy Coalition and long-time supporter of ACAAP, is a strong advocate for HB155; therefore ...

Be it Resolved that the American Council on Addiction and Alcohol Problems (ACAAP) supports the National Transportation Safety Board in this life-saving endeavor and echoes its call for a more stringent legal requirement regarding impaired driving that would reduce the allowable blood alcohol content level to 0.05 for anyone operating a motor vehicle in the United States; and ...

Be it further resolved that ACAAP supports Utah Governor Gary Herbert's signing of HB155 into law and encourages Utah lawmakers to support HB155 at the next Legislative Session to keep the legal limit for a driver's blood alcohol level in their state at 0.05 and to work with the NTSB and others to educate their fellow legislators as well as constituents about the need for a 0.05 BAC limit and the important role that a lowered limit plays in increasing highway safety and reducing highway fatalities.

Be it finally resolved that the Executive Director and President of ACAAP will send a joint letter in support of HB155 with a copy of this resolution to the Governor of Utah; the leadership of the Utah House of Representatives and Senate; and the National Transportation Safety Board.