



Resolution on Ignition Interlock Technology

Whereas, the American Council on Alcohol Problems believes that ignition interlock technology has proven to be a more than promising tool in the battle against drunk driving; and

Whereas, most states have enacted laws that require or allow for ignition interlocks as a sanction for DWI offenders and many are considering improvements to existing laws; and

Whereas, research shows that a high percentage (up to 75%) of drunk driving offenders drive illegally after a DWI arrest and license suspension; and [1]

Whereas, research also demonstrates that when ignition interlocks are installed on an offenders vehicle, rates of DWI offenses are significantly reduced (up to 64%); and [2]

Whereas, every day in the United States as many as 28 people die as a result of a drunk driving crash; and [3]

Whereas, as many as one in three Americans will be involved in a drunk driving crash in their lifetimes; and [4]

Whereas, drunk driving cost the United States approximately \$132 billion annually; and [5]

Whereas, the average drunk driver has driven as many as 80 times before his or her first arrest; and [6]

Whereas, whenever an ignition interlock is installed on a vehicle it will not start if the driver has been drinking, thereby protecting the public from the consequences of drunk driving; and

Whereas, ignition interlocks are a very cost-effective sanction for DWI to be borne by the offender, costing much less than the cost of incarceration by the state or electronic monitoring;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the American Council on Alcohol Problems encourages all states to maximize its fight against the tragedies accompanied with drunk driving by requiring this effective new technology be placed on the vehicles of all first time offenders convicted of DWI.

Resources

[1] *Ignition Interlocks: What You Need to Know*, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2009

[2] Ibid

[3] National Highway Traffic Safety Administration FARS data, 2011.

[4] *The Traffic Stop and You: Improving Communications between Citizens and Law Enforcement*, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 2001

[5] National Highway Traffic Safety Administration FARS data, 2010

[6] Centers for Disease Control. *Vital Signs: Alcohol-Impaired Driving Among Adults – United States, 2010*. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. October 4, 2011.