



Oregon Alliance for Drug Endangered Children  
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**COPY**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
BEFORE THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
IN SUPPORT OF  
HB 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152**

Dear Chair Macpherson and members of the Committee,

As a member of the Oregon Attorney General's Underage Drinking Task Force, I strongly urge you to support House Bills 2144 to 2152.

In developing these bills, the Task Force utilized a report from the Institute of Medicine, National Research Council of the National Academies, entitled *Reducing Underage Drinking – A Collective Responsibility* (the “NRC Report”).

The underlying purpose of House Bills 2144 to 2152 is to implement the recommendations from the NRC Report that require legislative action. In a nut shell, those recommendations utilize evidence-based solutions to reduce underage drinking by providing uniform consequences in a graduated and rapid manner.

I would also be remiss if I failed to mention another recommendation in the NRC Report that requires legislative action. Although not a part of the Task Force work, and not a bill that will come before this Committee, the NRC Report clearly identifies the need to raise alcohol excise taxes, which haven't been adjusted in Oregon for 30 years and are one of the lowest in the Nation. On the back side of this testimony, I have provided the language from the NRC Report relating to that recommendation.

Please support House Bills 2144 to 2152, and please also support efforts later this session to increase the beer tax.

Sincerely,

*Rob Bovett*

Rob Bovett  
President  
Oregon Alliance for Drug Endangered Children

Rescue. Defend. Shelter. Support.

## Alcohol Excise Taxes

Alcoholic beverages are far cheaper (after adjusting for overall inflation) today than they were in the 1960s and 1970s. While raising excise taxes, and therefore prices, would have some effect on alcohol use by adults, price has been documented to have a differential effect on youth alcohol consumption patterns. Taxes can also be a source of revenue for funding strategies aimed at reducing underage drinking and its associated harms.

**Recommendation 12-7:** Congress and state legislatures should raise excise taxes to reduce underage consumption and to raise additional revenues for this purpose. Top priority should be given to raising beer taxes, and excise tax rates for all alcoholic beverages should be indexed to the consumer price index so that they keep pace with inflation without the necessity of further legislative action.

from

