



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Drug-Free Action Alliance Leads Discussion of the Minimum Legal Drinking Age at Prevention Works for a Drug Free Fairfield County**

(Lancaster, OH) Kristen Frederick, Project Director for the Ohio Center for Coalition Excellence at Drug-Free Action Alliance, discussed the science-based research on retaining the Minimum Legal Drinking Age (MLDA) at 21 years of age. Drug-Free Action Alliance recently released its position paper supporting the current 21 minimum legal drinking age law and hosted a panel presentation on the subject at the Ohio Statehouse.

Alcohol is the number one substance abuse problem in America and more young people die from alcohol-related causes than from all other illicit drugs combined; more than 5,000 per year. Reducing the Minimum Legal Drinking Age is currently garnering a great deal of national attention.

“Reducing the Minimum Legal Drinking Age is not an acceptable solution to the problem of underage drinking,” said Kristen Frederick, Project Director at Drug-Free Action Alliance. “Prevention science demonstrates that a comprehensive, multi-layers approach is needed to continue to reduce underage alcohol and drug-related problems in America. Lowering the drinking age does not help solve the problem of underage drinking.”

Frederick presented Drug-Free Action Alliance’s position on the MLDA to Prevention Works for a Drug Free Fairfield County. Prevention Works for a Drug Free Fairfield County is an anti-drug coalition that was revitalized in 2003 with a mission to prevent and reduce substance abuse among youth and, overtime, among adults by establishing and strengthening collaboration by and between all sectors of the community. The coalition has 60 members including organizations and individuals. The coordination of the Coalition is facilitated by the Fairfield County Family, Adult and Children First Council.

Drug-Free Action Alliance is a not-for-profit organization that oversees the Ohio College Initiative to Reduce High-Risk Drinking. Forty-five Ohio colleges and universities are part of the initiative that work to change the alcohol-related culture on campuses and provide an environment to help influence the decisions that students make about alcohol use. Other Drug-Free Action Alliance programs include Know!, “Parents Who Host, Lose The Most: Don’t be a party to teenage drinking”, and the Ohio Red Ribbon Celebration.

More information about Drug-Free Action Alliance and retaining 21 as the Minimum Legal Drinking Age can be accessed at: [www.DrugFreeActionAlliance.org](http://www.DrugFreeActionAlliance.org).

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Red Ribbon Celebration

College Initiative to Reduce  
High Risk Drinking

Ohio Resource Network  
Clearinghouse

Statewide Prevention  
Coalition Association

Parents Who Host, Lose The Most:  
Don't be a party to teenage drinking

Ohio Center for  
Coalition Excellence

Know!

Youth Philanthropy  
Council

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