



MARTIN O'MALLEY
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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

June 9, 2014

Ben Stevenson
Many Voices for Smart Choice Prevention Alliance
7300 Calhoun Place Suite 600
Rockville, Maryland 20855

Dear Mr. Stevenson,

Please accept my appreciation for your participation in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's 2014 Town Hall Meetings initiative to prevent underage drinking. Your event serves both to move your community to take action against underage drinking and to promote a safer and healthier environment for everyone in our state.

Underage drinking imposes a high and often tragic toll on our communities and our families. The costs associated with underage drinking—highway traffic crashes, injuries, vandalism and personal violence, and emergency department visits, among many others—are a financial burden on every taxpayer, one we can ill-afford. More important, underage drinking can keep our young people from achieving their full potential and fulfilling their own dreams and ours.

Underage drinking, however, is not a problem without a solution. Organizations such as yours that work to engage the community in prevention are making a difference. Your efforts to promote strong state and local underage drinking prevention laws, to equip parents and caregivers with the information they need to help their children avoid alcohol use, or to engage in other prevention efforts are contributing to an ongoing, national decline in underage drinking.

I encourage your organization to continue your efforts, including Town Hall Meetings, that can raise public awareness of and action on this serious problem. Thank you for your commitment to promoting the health and future of our youth and communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin O'Malley".

Governor