

- Bureau of Motor Vehicles
- Emergency Management Agency
- Emergency Medical Services
- Office of Criminal Justice Services
- Ohio Homeland Security
- **Ohio State Highway Patrol**



A Component of the Ohio State Highway Patrol

April 2017

Dear Parents:

What an exciting time for you and your sons and daughters. As I look back, I remember this time with my two daughters fondly. However, as 28-year veteran of the Ohio State Highway Patrol, I also know this time of celebration can turn into a time of tragedy. With after-prom and graduation parties, the opportunities for your son or daughter to be tempted by underage drinking are more likely.

To help foster good choices, parents and teens need to understand Ohio's underage drinking laws.

- It is illegal to provide a place for your child and his/her friends to drink in a "safe" environment. In fact, parents may not provide alcohol to children who are under 21, who are not their own, even in their own home with the other parents' permission. Those convicted of providing alcohol to a person under 21 years of age face maximum sentences of six months in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.
- It is illegal to purchase alcohol for anyone under 21. Anyone who purchases, sells or gives alcoholic beverages to underage individuals faces a \$1,000 fine and/or up to six months in jail.
- If you are under 21 and are caught driving with a blood alcohol concentration of .02 percent or higher, a level that can be reached after just one or two drinks, you can be arrested. Punishment is suspension of your driver license for at least 90 days up to a maximum of two years, plus four points added to your driving record. Having an open container of alcohol in a motor vehicle is also illegal.

We commend those teens who make the wise and mature decision not to participate in illegal and dangerous behavior. Parents and administrators have the best opportunity to influence decisions and attitudes to make this the safest prom and graduation season in Ohio.

Together, we must commit to making a safer Ohio, by stopping senseless tragedies associated with irresponsible and illegal underage alcohol consumption. If you have information about a bar; store or carryout selling beer and/or liquor to persons under the age of 21; or you have information of an underage house party, please notify the Ohio Investigative Unit by calling #677 on your cell phone and potential violations will be investigated.

Sincerely,



Colonel Paul A. Pride  
Superintendent