



Resolution to Support Medical Amnesty in Minnesota

Whereas, high-risk drinking is a growing epidemic on college campuses across the country, with the CDC stating that more than 1,800 student fatalities and nearly 600,000 alcohol-related injuries occur each year; and

Whereas, a 2010 University of Minnesota survey found that 37.9% of University of Minnesota 20-year-olds engaged in high-risk drinking in the last two weeks, which can lead to complications including seizures, asphyxiation, hypothermia, irreversible brain damage, and death; and

Whereas, according to the 2011 College Student Health Survey conducted by Boynton Health Services (of 12,263 college-age students in Minnesota), 35.5% of students who were unable to wake an individual due to alcohol use reported that they experienced uncertainty over whether or not to call 911; and

Whereas, in a 2-year period following the implementation of a medical amnesty policy at Cornell University the number of alcohol-related EMS calls increased by 22%, while the percentage of students reporting a fear of judicial repercussion in emergency situations decreased by 61%, and underage drinking levels did not increase as a result of this policy; and

Whereas, ten states and more than one hundred college and university campuses have implemented medical amnesty policies that provide limited protection from legal liability for underage consumption in situations where individuals seek emergency medical assistance; and

Whereas, the Augsburg College Day Student Government believes no one should be hindered from seeking potentially life-saving medical assistance on behalf of themselves or others and that a medical amnesty policy would significantly reduce barriers;

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the Augsburg Day Student Government will, in coordination with the University of Minnesota Student Association, actively lobby the State of Minnesota in support of legislation implementing a medical amnesty policy.

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