

## Social Host Ordinances - SAMPLE LETTER OF SUPPORT

*(Edit/cut & paste onto your letterhead, send copies to YOUR elected officials & to the taskforce)*

Date

Name/title

Mailing Address

Dear *(insert title/name)*,

[WHO YOU ARE] As a constituent and *[insert groups you represent and/or type of profession/job title or volunteer]*, I am writing to express my support of the Cobb Alcohol Taskforce's position on the implementation of Social Host Ordinances in *(insert city/county)*.

[WHY YOU SUPPORT] (Optional: *Add a brief personal statement about why you support social host ordinances for a specific city/county or use the following statement*) Such ordinances will help send a clear and consistent message to all community adults, and youth, that allowing underage drinking to occur on property they control is unacceptable.

[KEY POINTS] The following are some key points that illustrate the need, costs, and benefits of social host ordinances; *(use all or select a few from below or choose your own after your review of FAQ sheet)*

- Alcohol is the top health and safety threat for our youth in terms of public health, safety, crime and quality of life-related problems.
- There are serious second hand effects of underage drinking too; property crimes, crimes against persons, and other societal costs add up to about \$1.5 billion for Georgians annually.
- Alcohol is the #1 drug of choice among children and adolescents; they use alcohol **10** times more than ALL illegal drugs, combined.
- Parents dramatically underestimate teenage binge drinking.
- Private parties are the primary source where youth obtain alcohol.
- Address current evidence collection challenges for determining who furnished the alcohol when police arrive at the scene where underage youth are drinking alcohol.
- Compliment the current state law prohibiting 'furnishing of alcohol to minors' by adding a new local law prohibiting 'furnishing of the place' where underage drinking occurs.
- Allow public safety agencies to recover costs incurred in breaking up underage drinking parties, and eventually serving as a deterrent and reducing such calls for service.
- Evidence of effectiveness; hundreds of communities in 21 states have implemented social host ordinances, reporting significant benefits.

[CLOSING & ASK] I hope *(insert city/county)* will be among the first communities in Georgia to adopt and enforce a social host ordinance. Please let me know of your interest and intentions for supporting such an ordinance.

Sincerely,

Signature

Name/Title

Address/phone/email – *Don't forget to add this here, only if it's not on your letterhead!*