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Good Morning Chair Prozanski, Vice-chair Close and members of the committee,

My name is Greg Mills and I am the student body vice president at the University of Oregon. I am a senior accounting major in the business school, and I have also been a member of Delta Tau Delta Fraternity at the U of O for the past 4 years. When it comes to alcohol on campuses, I consider myself to have been a 1st hand witness to about every situation the typical college student encounters, including instances of alcohol poisoning and addiction. This bill is a step in the right direction to ensure that students do the right thing for their peers when addressing a dangerous situation caused by alcohol, and I fully support its passage.

Earlier this academic year, over the course of a single weekend, 5 University of Oregon sorority women were hospitalized with alcohol related health issues. Luckily, correct measures were taken to prevent serious consequences stemming from a weekend meant to celebrate the return of the student body to campus for the fall quarter. Fraternity and sorority life at the University of Oregon mandates that students receive alcohol education training when they pledge, as well as sober monitors at every fraternity and sorority function. While these measures can help save a life for the students involved in fraternity and sorority life, what happens if these measures fail? And what about the 88% of students outside of fraternity and sorority life who receive no such training or have no designated sober monitors at their parties who can respond in an event requiring medical attention?

We all have heard the statistic in the media – each year, 1,700 college students die from alcohol related accidents and over 100,000 are arrested for alcohol related violations. In Eugene alone, at the close of the 2012 calendar year, there were 1,908 liquor violations and 2,813 liquor related arrests. 544 of the violations were minor in possession charges and 1,303 of them were drinking in public charges. 59 violations were for furnishing to a minor.

Not all of these violations were necessarily U of O college students, however, binge drinking at Oregon Universities is a systemic issue. In the 2008-2010 Biennial Report on Alcohol and Drugs released by the University of Oregon (the 2010-2012 could not be found), 44% of U of O students identified themselves as binge drinkers, a statistic that had not changed for 15 straight years at the time of that report. 21% (or 4,600 students) said that they had been physically injured as a result of their drinking and 34% (over 7,000 students) had said that they had forgot where they were or what they had done as a result of their drinking. In colloquial college student terms, this is the stage we call 'blacking out' which is an identifier that one is experiencing alcohol poisoning.

For these 7,000 students, the idea of needing medical assistance may become a reality.

While such a scenario can seem plain as day to those of us seated in this room, the decision capabilities of a young undergraduate under the influence of alcohol and social pressure are generally compromised. Rarely is someone able to drive an unconscious friend to a hospital due to being under the influence themselves, which means calling 911 and bringing assistance to a party filled with minors in possession and individuals under the influence of alcohol. Even if a student is able to combat social pressures and make the correct decision to call for help, they may be putting themselves, their friends, and the injured or unconscious individual in legal jeopardy.



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For young college students establishing themselves as adults, the prospect of facing legal trouble is daunting. Legal penalties start with a minor in possession charge at \$250, allowing alcohol consumption by minors goes up to \$1,000, and having an open container in public can also cost \$1,000 and lead to a night in jail, among other charges. Some of these charges can also turn into academic consequences. If an international student receives a serious charge, or multiple misdemeanors such as MIPs on their record, they risk being deported. Other students, already burdened with the heavy financial cost of school, risk incurring financial penalties they cannot bear while also being enrolled in classes.

I don't think any of these reasons should prevent someone from taking action that could possibly save a life. And this bill would help alleviate the fear of legal and financial repercussions.

I have no doubt that this bill could possibly save lives – that in the mind of an intoxicated college student, legal amnesty could be the tipping variable in a very difficult situation where a friend is relying on them to make the right decision.

I encourage you to help Oregon join the 17 states that have already passed this law, and give young people the ability they need to act responsibly in the presence of alcohol by passing **House Bill 4094**

Thank you for your time,

Greg Mills

Vice President of External Affairs, Associated Students of the University of Oregon (ASUO)

Board of Directors, Oregon Student Association (OSA)