



April 14, 2008

To the Members of Amherst Town Meeting;

We are writing on behalf of the Campus and Community Coalition to Reduce High Risk Drinking (CCC) in support of *Warrant Article 40. Bylaw - Nuisance House* also known as the "Social Host and Party House Nuisance Bylaw."

Dangerous and underage drinking and disruptive parties are a serious concern in our community. These problems often lead to injuries, property damage and traumatized neighborhoods. Research and practice shows us that clear and consistent policies and strong enforcement efforts are often the most effective strategies for curtailing these problems. The CCC has been working for the past three years to implement a variety of strategies to reduce illegal and binge drinking among students. These strategies have already resulted in a dramatic decrease in binge drinking behaviors among UMass students.

Large, disorderly parties can cause traffic problems, neighborhood disturbances, overburden local police, create an unsafe environment for those attending, and lead to property damage and violent behavior. These parties are also where minors and underage drinkers find easy access to alcohol and an environment that promotes binge drinking. A subcommittee of the CCC spent over a year reviewing bylaws from college communities across the country. The bylaw outlined in *Warrant Article 40* was written to represent the best practices discovered during this review and to fill a gap in existing enforcement strategies.

The Coalition took a formal vote at a meeting on Tuesday, January 22nd, 2008 on the following motion:

"The Campus and Community Coalition to Reduce High Risk Drinking supports the spirit and intent of the proposed social host and party house nuisance bylaw."

With 18 members present the motion passed unanimously.

We hope that you will make the connection between strong enforcement and the health, safety and quality of life for everyone in our community. We encourage the Town to adopt this new enforcement tool to discourage disruptive parties, binge and underage drinking.

Sincerely,

Martha Nelson Patrick
CCC Co-Chair

Sally Linowski, Ph.D.
CCC Co-Chair