

# SAVE OUR SENIORS

## **INFORMATION ON THE KEG LAW & HOTEL/MOTEL PARTIES**

As the end of the school year approaches, we look forward to a safe and happy Prom and Graduation for the Class of 2010. We do not want this time to be spoiled by incidents involving alcohol, illegal underage drinking, car accidents, or hotel/motel parties. Awareness of and adherence to the following laws can help keep our young people safe:

The Keg Law (1989 amendment to Ohio Revised Code Section 4301.69) holds individuals responsible for underage drinking on property under their control. If an after-prom party is held at a private home and the parents knowingly allow underage persons to consume alcoholic beverages, both the underage persons and the parents are in violation of the law. Violation is a **FIRST DEGREE MISDEMEANOR**, punishable with up to **SIX MONTHS** in jail and/or up to a **\$1000 FINE**.

The Keg Law also includes hotels, motels, campgrounds, and other public places that **UNKNOWINGLY** allow underage drinking parties to take place on their premises. They are still subject to criminal prosecution and are held liable. Families should remind seniors of the seriousness of participating in hotel/motel parties where drinking may be occurring. More importantly, parents or older siblings, relatives, or friends should not make hotel/motel reservations for teens. Instead, seniors should be encouraged to attend the Perry High School After-Prom.

Also, in Ohio, parents may be held liable for any injury or damage caused by a teenager who has been allowed to drink in their home. Any person under the age of 21 who provides false identification for the purpose of purchasing alcohol is guilty of a crime.

Let us make this time of the year for our graduates a safe, enjoyable one and one they will look upon with fondness and not sadness.