

ACTION ALERT

From WASAVP

The Washington Association for Substance Abuse and Violence Prevention

For Immediate Release: January 25, 2010

Contact: Liz Wilhelm, WASAVP Chair – (206) 734-1362

Help Take Dangerous Alcoholic Energy Drinks Off The Market

HB 2804, the bill to ban caffeinated and stimulant-enhanced malt beverages is in jeopardy of not making it out of committee. A primary source of the opposition (other than the loss of business for makers of the products) is the vagueness regarding which products will be included in the ban. Further discussions will be held to consider whether an amendment to the bill would be required. Meanwhile, however, it is critical that the prevention community communicate to the House Labor and Commerce Committee members their concerns about the dangers of these products, both to individual health and well-being and to public safety.

In sending messages, you could include comments that reflect the dangers of consuming high amounts of caffeine and alcohol: the “wide-awake drunk” who does not know the extent of his/her intoxication, resulting in an increased danger to self and others; those who are frequent consumers of alcoholic energy drinks drink greater quantities of alcohol than individuals who do not drink caffeinated energy drinks (Miller, 2008a; Oteri et al., 2007; Arria et al., in press); and the broad appeal to young people, teens to twenty-somethings, who are most vulnerable and have the most to lose. Keep in mind that any real-life examples would enhance any comments given to the committee.

Also, if you have access to parents groups please send this message along to them as their input is crucial.

Sample: Please vote for passage of HB 2804. Caffeinated and stimulant-enhanced malt beverages are a danger to those consuming them and to general public. Studies show that those who consume these drinks tend to drink more than those consuming beverages without these stimulants, resulting in higher levels of intoxication and more risky behavior, including drunk driving, violence, sexual assault and suicide.

Committee members and their e-mail addresses are as follows:

Rep. Steve Conway, Chair	conway.steve@leg.wa.gov
Rep. Alex Wood	wood.alex@leg.wa.gov
Rep. Cary Condotta	condotta.cary@leg.wa.gov
Rep. Bruce Chandler	chandler.bruce@leg.wa.gov
Rep. Larry Crouse	crouse.larry@leg.wa.gov
Rep. Tami Green	green.tami@leg.wa.gov
Rep. Jim Moeller	moeller.jim@leg.wa.gov
Rep. Brendan Williams	williams.brendan@leg.wa.gov

Thank you for your continued work for our communities!