



Mothers Against Drunk Driving
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September 25, 2012

The Honorable John Walsh
Chairman, House Judiciary Committee
N-698 House Office Building
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, Michigan 48909

Dear Chairman Walsh,

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) urges your support and passage for HB 5665, which eliminates the October 1, 2013, sunset provision of Michigan's .08 law. MADD respectfully requests that you hold a hearing and vote on this lifesaving legislation in the House Judiciary Committee.

In September 2003, .08 blood alcohol concentration (BAC) became the illegal threshold for driving drunk in Michigan. As a result of the .08 law, in addition to the efforts of law enforcement, prosecutors and an increasing use of ignition interlocks for convicted drunk drivers, drunk driving deaths have dropped by 32 percent. Since August 2005, all states have enacted a .08 law. These laws have helped contribute to the 24 percent decline in drunk driving deaths in the United States since 2006.

Even with the proven success of .08 laws in saving lives, some may still argue such laws target social drinkers. However, driving with a .08 BAC is not the result of safe social drinking—it is dangerous and deadly. When drivers reach .08 BAC, their critical driving skills, like judging distance and speed, steering, visual tracking, concentration, braking and staying in driving lanes are severely impaired (Moskowitz, 2000). In addition, at a .08 BAC level, a person is 11 times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than someone who has had nothing to drink (Zador, 2000) (Keall et al, 2004).

MADD is not against people age 21 and over consuming alcohol. Michigan's .08 law does not stop people from drinking alcohol, it helps stop drunk driving. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism notes that to reach a .08 BAC, men must typically consume five or more drinks, and women must typically consume four or more drinks, in about two hours. This dispels the myth that someone can be arrested for drunk driving at .08 BAC after one beer at a ball game or a glass of champagne at a wedding.

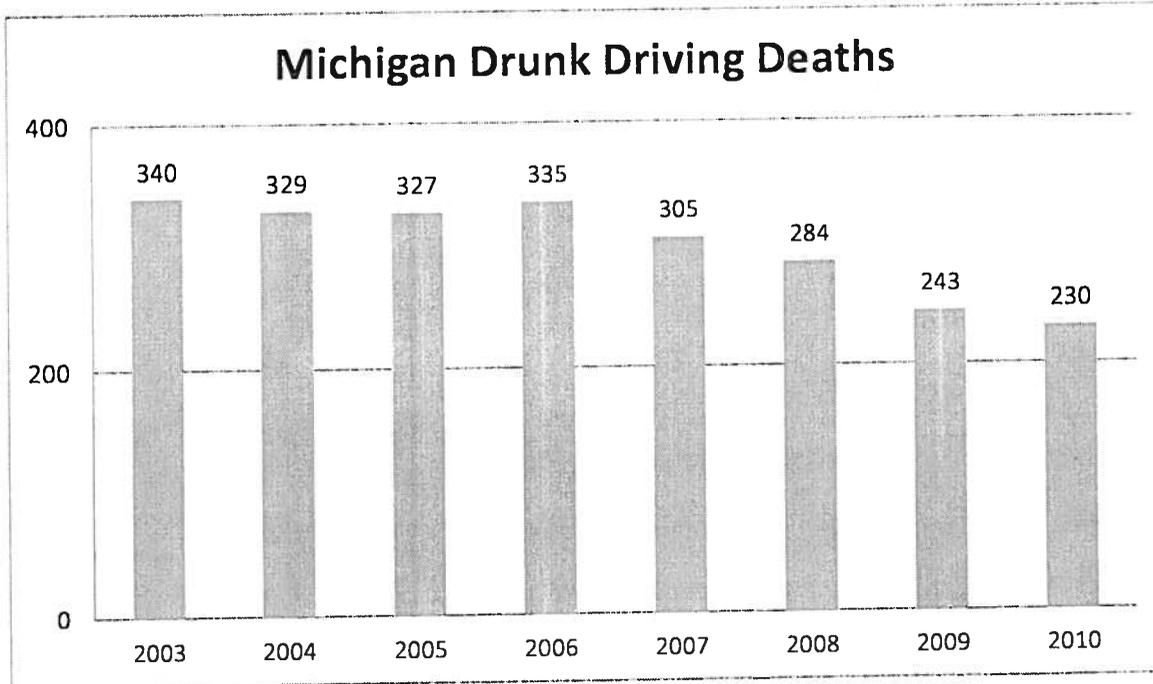
MADD encourages you to vote HB 5665 out of the House Judiciary Committee and advance this important measure in the legislative process. MADD believes Michigan's 32 percent reduction in drunk driving deaths is due in part to the .08 law. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

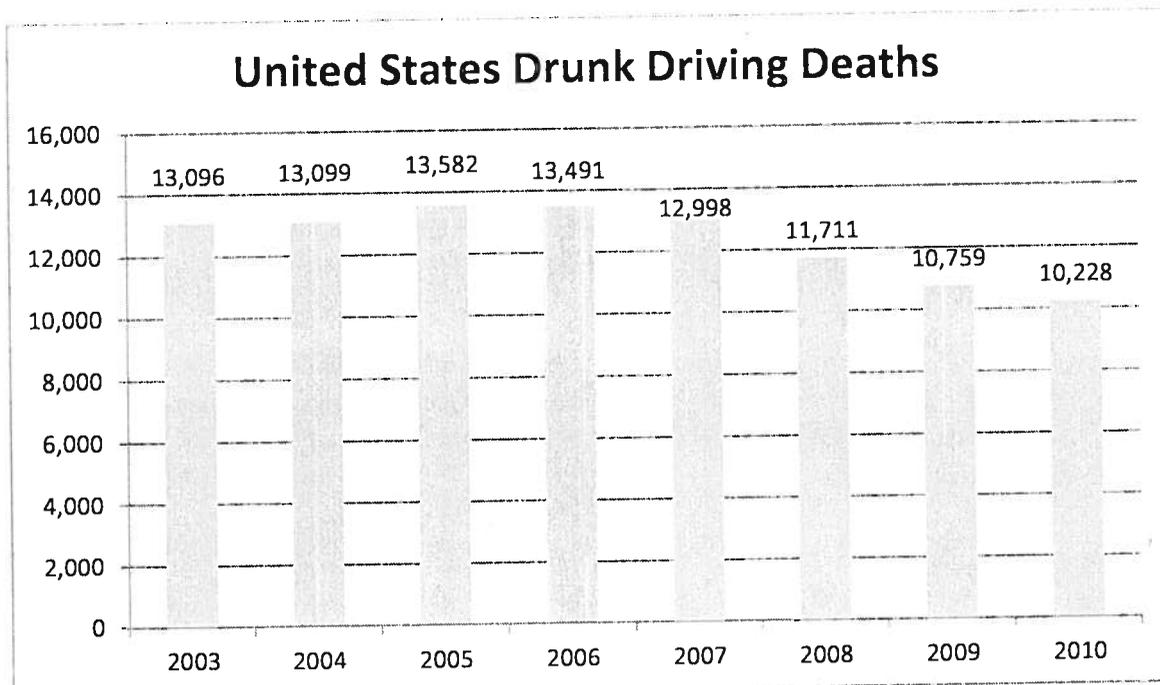
A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jan Withers", is written in blue ink.

Jan Withers
National President
Mothers Against Drunk Driving

Cc: Members of the House Judiciary Committee



Since .08 was implemented in Michigan in 2003, there has been a 32 percent reduction in drunk driving deaths.



Source: NHTSA

Since 2003, there has been a more than 21 percent reduction in drunk driving deaths in the U.S.