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Good Morning, and thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify on such an important issue that impacts towns and universities throughout Pennsylvania and across the country. It is an honor to be with this committee today.

My name is Kim Griffo, and I serve as the Executive Director for the International Town & Gown Association (ITGA). Our organization is based out of Clemson, South Carolina and our membership base is made up of college towns across our nation and Canada. We are dedicated to forwarding positive community relations and facilitate solutions that mutually benefit the university and their equally impressive host cities and towns. ITGA represents and serves 150 Colleges and Towns across our nation and Canada, which allows us to work with and learn from national leaders addressing numerous college town issues. The number one issue that continues to expand and challenge college towns is the off-campus issue of alcohol issues and underage drinking and the consequences that affect the quality of living and learning, for the tax payers, public safety officials and students. To actively engage in addressing any issue in a college town you have to understand the parts and pieces and know how those parts and pieces fit together to take measureable action. Senate Bill 941 and Senate Bill 943 strengthens the key "parts" of the foundation of commitment to students and community safety, it cements the role of "City as Teacher". Please keep that term in mind as we go through the discussions, because what both bills support is just that, City as Teacher. It is great to see firsthand college towns that want to do their part and provide care and concern for the students while they call your cities home for some of the most important 4 years of their lives. The student experience takes place both on campus and a substantial amount of student engagement and learning takes place off campus.

To begin, I would like to share a June 2012 quote from President Rodney Erickson from an interview with Penn State's Town and Gown Magazine. "As for the notion that college years are a time to build a sense of stability, one of the greatest challenges we faced during the Spanier era was the problem of student drinking, binge drinking, excessive alcohol consumption. We haven't been able to fix that by any stretch, but I do see some hopeful signs that things are becoming better. That will be one of the great challenges."

Nationally, this topic weighs heavy on the mind the majority of presidents, mayors, parents, and the top leadership.

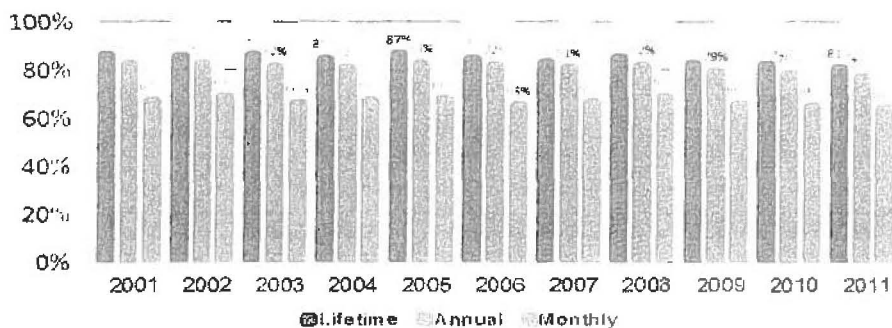
Alcohol issues are not limited to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Both urban and rural college communities across the country struggle tremendously with this growing and expensive problem. I have included information from 2 studies on these issues for your review at your leisure. The reports discuss the data over the last 12 years that strongly supports embracing this legislation. You all are familiar with

the numbers, but I would like to share some of the information of studies that continue to sound the alarms for the dangers and tragedies associated with off-campus alcohol consequences to the student, parents, neighbors and taxpayers. One is a 2012 Study from The Century Council- which provides a snapshot of the minimal progress we as college towns have made. The Century Council worked in partnership with the University of Michigan Researchers:

The Century Council Report-Overall, the prevalence of college drinking over the past two decades, measured as lifetime, annual, and past 30-day consumption rates have all declined. Since 1991, lifetime consumption among college students has declined 14% proportionately, while annual consumption and monthly consumption are down 12% and 15%, respectively.

Despite this long-term progress, over the past ten years trends in college drinking have remained relatively unchanged.

Alcohol consumption among college students over the past decade has remained relatively unchanged.



Source: NIAAA, *Monitoring the Future: National Survey Results on Drug Use, 1975-2011: Volume II, College Students and Adults Ages 19-50*. Institute for Social Research, The University of Michigan, 2012.

Among college students and young adults generally, there are also substantial gender differences in alcohol consumption, with college males drinking more than females. In 2011, two out of five college males (43%) reported consuming five or more drinks in a row during the previous two weeks compared to their college female peers (32%).

(Source: Monitoring the Future national survey results on drug use, 1975–2011: Volume II, College students and adults ages 19–50. Institute for Social Research, The University of Michigan. 2012)

A study from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: National Institutes of Health National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Report Titled **What Colleges Need to Know** reports:

The news is mixed. Among college students and other 18- to 24-year-olds, binge drinking (see the textbox, page 2, for a definition) and, in particular, driving while intoxicated (DWI), have increased since 1998. The number of students who reported DWI increased from 2.3 million students to 2.8 million (1). The number of alcohol-related deaths also has increased. In 2001, there were an estimated 1,700 alcohol-related unintentional injury deaths among students 18–24, an increase of 6 percent among

college students (that is, per college population) since 1998 (1). In addition, it is estimated that each year, more than 696,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are assaulted by another student who has been drinking, and more than 97,000 students between the ages of 18 and 24 are victims of alcohol-related sexual assault or date rape (1). Clearly, alcohol-related problems on campus still exist (1). frequent heavy drinkers. These younger drinkers also were more likely to report driving after drinking, riding with a driver who was drinking or drunk, and sustaining injuries after drinking alcohol that required medical attention (2).

The Encouraging News: There also is encouraging news. Research shows that several carefully conducted community initiatives aimed at reducing alcohol problems among college-age youth have been effective, leading to reductions in underage drinking, alcohol-related assaults, emergency department visits, and alcohol-related crashes (1). A close collaboration between colleges and their surrounding communities is key. This includes environmental approaches (such as more vigorous enforcement of zero tolerance laws, other drinking and driving laws, and strategies to reduce the availability of alcohol) as well as approaches that target the individual drinker (such as wider implementation of alcohol screening, counseling, and treatment programs).

NIAAA released a series of comprehensive reports from its groundbreaking Task Force on College Drinking. Findings emanating from the work of the Task Force were summarized in the report *A Call to Action: Changing the Culture of Drinking at U.S. Colleges*, which included solid, evidence-based recommendations to college and university administrators, community leaders, policymakers, parents, and students on addressing problems related to college drinking. Full Report Attached.

NIAAA report includes an alignment of partners and stakeholders in the solution for a call to action. You proposed legislation is key to forwarding collaborations that address these issues. Where the interaction takes place between the student and the community with public safety officers is where the rubber meets the road in town-gown relationships. This legislation makes a bold statement of how your college towns value and make that town-gown student relationship a priority. High impact initiatives have to be championed and funded to be successful. I am happy to point to two National Models that enjoy the benefits of turning around the alcohol issue by embracing legislation that mirrors Senate Bill 943 and 941. The University of Colorado at Boulder and Colorado State, City of Fort Collins are two of the best national models for addressing college town alcohol issues. The fee structures and court cost made an immediate impact for the university, town, and especially for the student experience. Their students are actively involved with the campaigns for alcohol education and neighborhood relations, working side by side with their police and actively participating with their alcohol coalitions and task force, which includes a Judge as part of the task force. Both cities stepped up to the role as "City as Teacher" and have mutually benefited from their work involving students.

Municipalities in college towns carry dual roles of the town-gown relationship. They are accountable to the taxpayer, the students+parents in ways that are not like that of the universities. To better serve the students, the taxpayer, and the universities, both Senate Bills 941 and 943 provide the much needed resources designated for alcohol education and task force programming to improve the quality of living and learning for the entire campus community and the citizens of Pennsylvania.

In closing, my final remarks are as follows: Senate Bills 941 and 943 are about doing things better for the entire Commonwealth, not accepting "it has always been this way". Not only does this legislation benefit the here and the now, it says to business and industry that Pennsylvania is committed and cares

about catching up to the present, it is one with their cities, values and cultivates a high performing workforce for the present and the future. Ultimately your decision to pass this legislation says a great deal about Pennsylvania's priority for advancing economic development and retaining and attracting business and industry. College towns are our anchor economies in our nation. College towns are where our country's economy will come roaring back. Your support of Senate Bill 943 and Senate Bill 941 launches economic competitiveness locally, nationally and internationally. Your cities teach.

Thank You