

## **Board endorses ‘Safe Homes’**

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Acton, Mass. - The Board of Selectmen joined the School Committee and the Acton Police Department in endorsing a program to asking parents to pledge to not allow underage drinking in their homes

The Community Alliance for Youth organized the Safe Homes program after a group of Acton-Boxborough students were caught drinking at a school dance. The program is modeled after similar programs in towns such as Westford and Bedford, and asks parents to sign a statement saying they will not allow parties in the homes where underage drinking is allowed or unsupervised parties and tell other parents if their child shows up at their home drunk.

“We don’t think, we know, as I’m sure you do, that [underage drinking] is a problem in our society,” said Bob McGowan, one of the founders of CAFY.

McGowan cited data from Emerson Hospital’s Youth Risk Behavior Survey that found that 42 percent of high school seniors had been present at parties where parents were allowing underage drinking, sometimes even providing the alcohol.

“I am very, very happy to endorse this program,” said Selectman Lauren Rosenzweig. “I think a lot of parents meaning well have parties in their houses thinking it’ll be safer. I think that’s a misinterpretation.”

McGowan said he hopes to get between 150 and 300 parents to sign the pledge in the first year.