

**Sample Letter to Board of Supervisors in support of the proposed
County-wide Social Host Ordinance**

Salud Carbajal
County of Santa Barbara
Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, Ca 93101

Dear Supervisor Carbajal,

As coalitions representing the city and county of Santa Barbara we are writing to recommend that you consider supporting a Social Host Ordinance for the county.

Underage and binge drinking is a significant problem facing young people today. Alcohol is the number one drug of choice for youth and the leading cause of death among teenagers. It is involved in the deaths of more teens than all other illicit drugs combined – by a four-to-ten ratio. The number one setting for underage drinking and/or binge drinking remains “the home”. Social host ordinances help to limit the access to alcohol by holding the host, owner or manager of the “setting” or property accountable for allowing underage drinking to occur in the private setting.

Social host accountability refers to laws that hold non-commercial individuals responsible for underage drinking on property they own, lease or control. While there are laws prohibiting the furnishing of alcoholic beverages to underage youth, social host laws prohibit the host from providing a location for a gathering of underage persons who possess or consume alcohol.

Because of the impact on our youth involved in underage drinking, we feel it is so important to have a county-wide Social Host Ordinance.

Sincerely,

Roberta Payán
ADAP Teen Coalition

Shereen Khatapoush, Ph.D.
CADA/Fighting Back