



# MICAP RECAP

Volume 113, Number 4 - August 2018

A Publication of the Michigan Council on Alcohol Problems,  
an entity of the American Alcohol and Drug Information Foundation.

*Michigan Council on Alcohol Problems  
Celebrating its 113<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2018*

## AADIF/MICAP

(517) 999-0013  
info@micap.org

### Officers:

President:  
Mr. Mike Tobias  
Perry, MI

Vice President:  
Pastor Donna Sperry  
Ionia, MI

Treasurer:  
Rev. William J. Amundsen  
Lansing, MI

Secretary:  
Eileen R. Ellis  
Lansing, MI

### Board of Directors:

Mr. Richard Braun  
Allen Park, MI

Vernon K. Smith, Ph.D.  
Okemos, MI

## Toward A Better Public Policy In Michigan For Beverage Alcohol

by Rev. W. J. (Bill) Amundsen, Retired

### Beverage Alcohol Public Policy Has Improved: Still Needs Improvement:

Since MICAP led the voters in Michigan to move the legal drinking age back to 21; and since the NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) saw Michigan's traffic accidents and deaths in alcohol-related accidents plummet; and since the NHTSA mandated all states move the age of legalization for drinking B/A (Beverage Alcohol) to 21 or lose Federal Highway Dollars, the Public Policy on Beverage Alcohol has been in the spotlight. For several years now, the rates of drunk driving and alcohol-related crash-es have been on the downward spiral, thanks to dedicated efforts by state legislators, safety and health persons, judges and court systems, as well as interested individuals and groups.

There is still room for improvement, however, and still more policy changes to make that would improve our public policy on B/A. The National Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports<sup>1</sup> that from 2003 to 2012, 2,912 persons were killed on Michigan highways in crashes involving a drunk driver. And even though it has improved, 1.9% of the population (both nationally and in Michigan) report driving after drinking too much.

### Some Issues Comprising B/A Policy:

Public Policy for B/A encompasses a broad spectrum of issues. Some of those issues include: pricing, control systems, Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) limits, health care services and financing, pregnancy and alcohol, retail sales, taxation, transportation, underage drinking, and more.<sup>2</sup> This breadth of issues concerning B/A policies is part of what makes MICAP'S tasks so daunting.

### MICAP's Mission/Purpose:

Part of MICAP's Mission Statement reminds us to PROMOTE EDUCATION about the consequences of the use and abuse of B/A. The other part is to PROMOTE POLICIES which will eliminate or mitigate these conse-

# **Toward A Better Public Policy In Michigan For Beverage Alcohol**

*Continued from Page 1*

quences. This *MICAP-RECAP* seeks both to educate and to eliminate some of the consequences of the abuse of B/A.

## **Your Opportunity to Help:**

The following will help to educate you, our readers, regarding House Bill 6086, which should be traveling through our Michigan state legislature at this time. This is a request, also, for as many of you as possible to write, phone or e-mail your state representative requesting passage of this bill before the 2017-2018 session ends in December. Any bill not enacted before the Michigan legislature adjourns in December automatically dies.

The mailing address for our state legislators is as follows: P. O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514.

## **The Committee On Regulatory Reform:**

In addition to the normal house and senate hurdles which bills must pass before being enacted, there is also the Committee on Regulatory Reform in both houses. That means that a bill must not only pass the first reading but must also pass the Regulatory Reform Committee.

## **House Bill 6086:**

Your help with House Bill No. 6086 will reduce the number of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASDs) children born in Michigan in the years ahead. It is estimated that about 1,134 children with FASD (about 1 in 100 live births) are born to women/families in Michigan annually. It is also estimated that 57.3 % of Michigan women, 18 – 44 years of age consume alcohol, and that 21.4% of those have undertaken binge drinking in the last thirty days. While the birth of a child with FASD is completely preventable by abstaining from any use of B/A during pregnancy, ANY amount of drinking while pregnant raises the specter of the birth of a child with FASD.

Besides the human and family costs of dealing with children with FASD, there are individual costs for children with this disorder. For an individual child, the average health costs, over a lifetime, is between \$860,000.00 and \$4.2 million, according to the National Organization of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum (NOFAS).<sup>3,5</sup>

A quote from NOFAS says: "Alcohol causes more harm than heroin or cocaine during pregnancy." The Institute of Medicine says, "Of all the substances of abuse (including cocaine, heroin and marijuana) alcohol produces by far the most serious neuro-behavioral effects in the fetus."<sup>3</sup>

Because any amount of alcohol drunk during pregnancy enhances the possibility of FASD in the newborn, Representative Vaupel and six other representatives in the Michigan legislature have submitted House Bill No. 6086 to require signage to be posted on premises of retail liquor licensees. This is in addition to that miniature (so small it is hardly readable) notice on each bottle of beverage alcohol sold. If the legislation is adopted, the sign shall contain the message: "Pregnancy and alcohol do not mix. Drinking alcoholic beverages, including wine, coolers and beer, during pregnancy can cause birth defects."<sup>4</sup>

*Continues on Page 3*

## **Toward A Better Public Policy In Michigan For Beverage Alcohol**

*Continued from Page 2*

### **Persons to Contact:**

On May 29, 2018, House Bill No. 6086 was introduced by Reps. Hank Vaupel, Martin Howrylak, Tommy Brann, Tom Cochran, Holly Hughes, Jeffrey Noble and Peter Lucido and then referred by the House to the Committee on Regulatory Reform. This bill, as good as it is, could simply die if no one on the House Regulatory Reform Committee realizes its importance and simply allows it to die in committee. So, one way of moving this bill along is to write to the committee members and request that they hold hearings, perfect it, and send it back to the House so it may be dealt with by the whole House. Those Regulatory Reform Committee Members include: Brandt Iden (R) Committee Chair, 61st District, Joseph Bellino (R) Majority Vice-Chair, 17th District, Klint Kesto (R) 39th District, Kathy Crawford (R) 38th District, Lana Theis (R) 42nd District, Michael Webber (R) 45th District, Beth Griffin (R) 66th District, Roger Hauck (R) 99th District, Michele Hoitenga (R) 102nd District, John Reilly (R) 46th District, Jeremy Moss (D) Minority Vice-Chair, 35th District, Scott Dianda (D) 110th District, John Chirkun (D) 22nd District, Frank Liberati (D) 13th District, Leslie Love (D) 10th District and Jewell Jones (D) 11th District.

Perhaps you know one or more of these members. Or maybe you know none of them. Nonetheless, they are your representatives and represent the public in the work of the Michigan House of Representatives. Your note or memo or phone call or e-mail will remind them that there are persons out here in the public who would like that bill to become enacted to law. They need to know that enacting that bill would save the State of Michigan at least several million dollars, and over time, hundreds of millions of dollars. The sooner it is enacted, the sooner it will begin to save some families and taxpayers the grief and pain of a child with FASD disabilities as well as taxpayer- and family-dollars.

Thank you for your support of MICAP and what we are trying to do to make a better public policy regarding B/A in Michigan.

1. Center for Disease Control and Prevention Fact Sheet on Michigan
2. <https://alcoholpolicy.niaaa.nih.gov/apis-policy-topics>
3. <https://www.nofas.org/factsheets/>
4. A quote from Michigan House Bill No. 6086
5. <https://chronicleofsocialchange.org/analysis/fetal-alcohol-spectrum-disorders-in-america-pt-2-the-financial-impact/4146>

## **Your Donations are Furthering MICAP's Mission**

We are excited to announce that we have developed a MICAP brochure and it is ready for distribution. Because of the generosity of so many faithful donors, who believe in our Mission to educate Michigan citizens about the consequences of the use and abuse of beverage alcohol and other impairing drugs, and to promote public policies that eliminate or mitigate those consequences, we were able to develop this brochure in-house and fund its printing.

The brochure gives a snapshot of MICAP's Past Accomplishments, identifies Improvements Needed for Michigan's Public Policy on Alcohol and states Facts and Alcohol Statistics that some may not be aware of. If you would like some of these brochures to distribute to friends, family or community groups, please contact us at: [www.info@micap.org](mailto:www.info@micap.org) or call us at (517) 999-0013 and request them. We are hoping to have this brochure posted on our website in the near future so that you can easily print them. Thank you to all donors who assisted us in helping fund this important initiative.



# **MICAP/AADIF**

Michigan Council on Alcohol Problems  
American Alcohol and Drug Information Foundation  
Mailing address: P.O. Box 10212, Lansing, MI 48901

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
LANSING, MI  
PERMIT NO. 1624

## **We've Made Donating to MICAP even Easier!**

MICAP has been hard at work this summer and thanks to your generous donations we have been able to update our website to make donating even easier. We are providing a PayPal option on our website that is simple and secure to use. Just click on the PayPal button on our website home page, provide your name, address, along with payment specifics and that's it! It's easier than writing a check and very secure.

In order to continue these types of upgrades to our website, MICAP depends 100% on gifts from people like you. Our work year-round depends directly on these gifts. MICAP could not do its work without your financial support, which truly makes a difference. Please help us to continue this important work!

MICAP is a non-profit 501©(3) organization. Your gift to MICAP is tax deductible to the extent allowed by the tax code. Make your donation now at: [www.micap.org](http://www.micap.org). From the bottom of our heart, we thank you.