

Ladies and gentlemen of the committee, thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony regarding HB 418. This was written in part because of a young man in my community, Trevor Pacek, who passed away at the age of 19. Trevor and two of his friends were supplied alcohol from one of the other boys' parents on a summer night back in 2020. The boys consumed the alcohol and then went on a boat ride in the middle of a small lake on the property in the early morning hours of Father's Day that year. Assumably as a result of their intoxicated state, the boat capsized. All three young men fell into the water, but only one survived. Trevor and the son of the parent who provided the alcohol, died that night.

Admittedly, the boys should not have been drinking in the first place; however, the parent also should not have openly provided this alcohol to the three young men, in such a fashion. It is clear that this parent utterly failed Trevor and his own son that night. By providing them the alcohol and then just leaving them alone was a deadly mistake and changed the lives of those families forever. In this case, the mixture of youth, alcohol, a small lake on the property and a late night was not a good combination. By changing one word from "knowingly" to "reckless" in the legislation, the modification could help prosecutors across the state of Ohio in their fight to make sure people who are providing alcohol to minors are held legally responsible. Those two young men did not have to die that night, but perhaps your actions as legislators could help alleviate the pain of those who lost loved ones because of the reckless actions of a parent regarding alcohol.

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