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Sharon A. Ray
State Representative

HB 674 (Trevor's Bill) Sponsor Testimony
House Criminal Justice Committee
June 2, 2022

Chairman LaRe, Vice Chairwoman White, Ranking Member Leland and members of the House Criminal Justice Committee. I am here today to speak to HB 674 – amended to Trevor's bill.

Trevor Pacek was a beloved 19 year old graduate of the Medina County Career Center. His parents, Sharon and Frank, had four girls prior to conceiving Trevor and one son after. Trevor appreciated his family and family meant everything to him. On June 20th, 2020 Trevor and his friend went to a third boy's house for a small bonfire. The parent hosting the bonfire bought alcohol for the young men and was aware they were intoxicated. At some point the host parent went to bed leaving the boys unsupervised. During the night the boys took a small jon boat onto a pond that was located on the property. Somehow the boat capsized and 2 of the three young men perished, including the son of the host.

The host parent pled guilty to a first degree misdemeanor – Of furnishing alcohol to a minor - which currently carries a penalty of 0 – 180 days in jail/and a fine of up to \$1,000.00

HB 674 (Trevor's bill) increases the penalty for knowingly providing alcohol to an underage person if the offense proximately causes the death of another. The charge would be enhanced from a first degree misdemeanor to a fourth degree

felony – carrying with it a mandatory jail penalty of 6-18 months and a fine of up to \$5,000.

For comparison purposes – other 4th degree felonies include:

- Motor vehicle theft
- Elder abuse or neglect
- Vehicular assault

During my years as a bailiff, I saw many cases where parents furnished alcohol for underage parties believing if they took the car keys everyone would be safe. Obviously, that is not the case.

The CDC reports that in 2010 there were approximately 189,000 emergency room visits due to underage age drinking.

Underage drinking cost the US economy \$24 billion dollars in 2010.

The three leading causes of death for 15-24 year olds are automobile crashes, homicides and suicides with alcohol being the leading factor in all.

Alcohol use is involved in up to 70% of deaths associated with water recreation.

Trevor Pacek's death was a preventable tragedy. It is my hope that raising awareness and increasing penalties will make us all more vigilant on this issue.

Chairman LaRe and members of the Criminal Justice Committee, thank you for allowing me to speak on this issue.

