



Testimony of Dr. Darrin T. Grondel before the Joint House and Senate Judiciary Committees.

Regarding Michigan HB 4309 – March 9, 2021

Chair Graham Filler and Members of the Committees thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony regarding HB 4309.

The Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility (Responsibility.org) is a national not-for-profit that leads the fight to eliminate drunk and impaired driving and underage drinking and is funded by the following distillers: Bacardi U.S.A., Inc.; Beam Suntory; Brown-Forman; DIAGEO; Edrington; Mast-Jägermeister US Inc.; Moët Hennessy USA; Ole Smoky LLC; and Pernod Ricard USA. To learn more, visit www.responsibility.org.

For the record, my name is Darrin T. Grondel Vice President of Government Relations and Traffic Safety for the Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility or Responsibility.org. Professionally, I served 25 years with the Washington State Patrol, retiring in 2017 at the rank of Captain. In 2012 – 2020, I was appointed by Governors Gregoire and Inslee to serve as Washington State's Governors Representative for highway safety. In that role, I led the state's efforts to address drunk, drugged, and multi-substance impaired driving.

Responsibility.org supports Michigan HB 4309 in retaining .08 Blood Alcohol Concentration. The Blood Alcohol Concentration, or BAC is measured by the weight of the alcohol in a certain volume of blood. A driver with a BAC of .08 grams of alcohol per deciliter (g/dL) of blood, is 11 times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than someone who has had nothing to drink (Zador, 2000) (Keall et al, 2004). Because of this risk, it is illegal in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico to drive with a BAC of .08 or higher, except in Utah where the BAC limit is .05.

The Center for Disease Control and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration designed, [What are the effects of BAC?](#), to provide context to the relationship to the number of drinks and BAC level. For instance, in order to get to a .08 BAC level, a 160-pound male must drink four drinks an hour and five drinks an hour to reach a .10 BAC level.

Currently, Michigan has a .08 BAC law, however, if current law sunsets, the BAC level would revert back to a .10, making this the highest BAC level in the US and industrialized nations, posing significant risks to the public.

Responsibility.org thanks you for your time and attention to the issues and urge you to support HB 4309 in keeping the BAC level at .08 for DUI investigations and sentencing.

Thank you

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