

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MAINE'S ATTORNEY GENERAL STEVEN ROWE WANTS YOU TO KNOW THAT TAKING AWAY THE KEYS IS NOT ENOUGH

AUGUSTA- "A lot of people believe that hosting is ok as long as they don't drive, but they don't think about the other dangers associated with underage drinking," stated Attorney General Steven Rowe at a press conference organized by members of the Youth Empowerment and Policy Project (YEPP), a statewide youth advocacy group consisting of high school and college students,

YEPP members presented Maine's Attorney General Steven Rowe with the first copy of their most recent project, Social Hosting in Our Communities: A survey of youth and adults. Social hosting is defined as when an adult (over the age of 21) provides liquor and/or a place to consume liquor to someone under the age of 21. The Attorney General was also presented with a certificate of appreciation for his continuing support towards the prevention of underage drinking.

YEPP members conducted a survey of 823 youth and adults from across the State that demonstrated a lack of awareness and communication about the dangers of social hosting. "I thought it was interesting that adults say that they give substance prevention talks to their kids, but the kids say they don't give the talks as often as adults say," stated Megan, a YEPP youth specialist. Based upon their findings, YEPP members have decided to launch the awareness campaign "Taking Away the Keys is not Enough" aimed at local community and law enforcement policies.

In partnership with their local Healthy Maine Partnership, YEPP members will offer trainings, information, and resources to assist their communities in changing the perception and acceptance of underage drinking. Ellen, a YEPP youth specialist explained, "The biggest factor in mending any system is to change its mentality; we're here to say that this is never a lost cause. We stand as an example for anyone disbelieving they can better this world."

For more information, obtain a copy of the survey results, or to request a training, visit the Youth Empowerment and Policy Project's website at www.neias.org/YEP/