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NCADD-New Jersey calls for keg registration at state level

TRENTON ... (January 8, 2008) – The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-New Jersey (NCADD-NJ) today issued a call for state lawmakers to pass a statewide keg registration law to reduce youth use of alcohol and to curb the many traffic fatalities that result from youth drinking. The action came as part of a forum on youth driving safety that took place in Gloucester County.

Citing studies on the effectiveness of keg registration, NCADD-NJ Director of Policy and Public Affairs John Hulick said, “Research shows, unsurprisingly, that registering kegs, which identifies the purchaser of a barrel of beer, helps reduce youth drinking and the car accidents that are a consequence of that behavior.” He noted that the state’s Division of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) has declared municipal keg registration ordinances invalid. As a result, Hulick said, “The only thing left to do is pass the measure at the state level.” The ABC ruling invalidating local keg registrations noted that “the Legislature’s goal of uniformity requires that keg registration be addressed on a statewide basis.”

The research Hulick referred to shows that keg registration “significantly” lowered traffic fatalities in 97 communities around the country. Kegs are a common source of alcohol for youth and parties where beer barrels are available are likely to have excessive drinking. “This behavior,” Hulick said, “puts youth at risk from the amount they are drinking, and certainly when they get behind the wheel.”

Over the past five years, NCADD-NJ has educated the public and lawmakers about youth drinking through its Sobering Facts Campaign, which also promotes strategies to address the problem.

Information about the campaign is available through its website, www.soberingfacts.org.