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Governor Fallin signs “Cody’s Law”

Red Rock Area Prevention Resource Center (APRC) recently traveled to the Oklahoma State Capitol to celebrate the passage of “Cody’s Law,” also known as Statewide Social Host Law. On Wednesday, June 8, 2011, Governor Mary Fallin signed HB1211, which provides stronger penalties for hosts who knowingly allow underage drinking in their homes or on their land.

For the past five years, Red Rock APRC along with the Oklahoma Prevention Policy Alliance (OPPA) have advocated for the need of a strong statewide social host law. In the process of advocating for a strong state law, they also passed over a hundred local social host ordinances to protect Oklahoma youth. However, now that a statewide social host law has passed, all youth across the state of Oklahoma will be better protected against the dangers of underage drinking.

The social host law provides a misdemeanor and fine of up to \$500 for the first violation and a fine of up to \$1,000 for a second. Further violations can result in up to five years in prison and a fine of \$2,500. If a violation of Cody's Law results in bodily injury or death, a social host will face a fine of between \$2,500 and \$5,000 and up to five years of incarceration,

House Bill 1211 is named after Cody Greenhaw, a Tulsa teenager who died from a drug and alcohol overdose. Both chambers of the Legislature passed House Bill 1211 unanimously. The legislation will take effect Nov. 1, 2011.

Red Rock APRC provides a variety of free resources to Canadian and Grady counties including educational materials on alcohol, tobacco, other drugs, parenting, HIV/AIDS, and Spanish materials. For more information on “Cody’s Law” or to receive free educational materials or more information regarding the APRC contact Ashley Cline at 405-354-1928 or www.redrockwestaprc.com.