

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Youth Rally Focuses on "Taking Back" Pennsylvania**

Harrisburg, PA (**October 11, 2006**) – This morning over 300 youth leaders held a Rally & Press Conference in the Capitol Rotunda at 11:30 AM. Youth from the commonwealth are planning on "taking back" Pennsylvania from the culture of alcohol that surrounds them and their peers. Youth representing over 40 school districts and dozens of communities are coming together to talk about the solutions of underage drinking through environmental change.

Youth will spent the morning in a training session at the Hilton Hotel in Harrisburg. The focus of the training session will be to enhance their leadership skills and awareness of underage drinking so they can continue to change the current culture of underage drinking and reduce youth access to alcohol.

According to the 2005 Pennsylvania Youth Survey Results the 30 day alcohol use among 12<sup>th</sup> graders is at a all time high. Youth attending this event want to make changes in our laws, culture, and norms to reduce underage drinking. "The culture of acceptance for underage drinking is changing and it is time for adults to understand they need to help do their part to reduce underage drinking" said Felicity DeBacco-Erni, Director Pennsylvanians Against Underage Drinking/ PA SADD.

PA SADD and the Pennsylvania DUI Association are the sponsors for both the Leadership Training and the 2006 Youth Rally Day. The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board's Bureau of Alcohol Prevention and the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention contribute funding for the event.

*Pennsylvanians Against Underage Drinking is a coalition of individuals and organizations-both youth and adults- working to reduce underage drinking in Pennsylvania. The mission of Pennsylvanians Against Underage Drinking is to reduce underage drinking and related youth problems in Pennsylvania through*

*development of regional coalitions; youth leadership; public education and media; public policy and social norm initiatives. For more information, please visit [www.AlcoholFreeYouth.org](http://www.AlcoholFreeYouth.org)*

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