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News Release

Campaign to Lower Drinking Age Begins; Holds Press Conference

Montpelier, VT March 29, 2005: The National Youth Rights Association (NYRA) plans to kick off its campaign to lower the drinking age in Vermont with a Press Conference on Tuesday March 29, from 3 to 4 pm in the Cedar Creek Room of the Statehouse. This event will begin a two week whirlwind public education campaign across the state; the campaign plans to visit every college campus in the state.

“Lowering the drinking age would end the shameful double standard that says at 18 one is mature and responsible enough to drive a tank through Baghdad but yet can’t be trusted with a can of beer,” said NYRA Executive Director, Alex Koroknay-Palicz.

Research shows that raising the drinking age to 21 had no effect on drunk driving in Vermont, and may have actually led to increased alcohol use by minors with a 17% increase among drinking among 8th graders in Vermont since the age was raised. NYRA encourages a European approach to youth alcohol policy that fosters a moderate, responsible attitude toward drinking.

NYRA-Vermont President, Ken Boring said, “I’m hoping that the campaign will motivate Vermonters who support lowering the drinking age to pick up their phones and call their state legislators about this issue. Because there’s been a lot of talk about the drinking age, lately, but precious little action.”

The media and the public are invited to attend the press conference where NYRA and NYRA-VT will spell out their plans for the next two weeks and afterwards. They hope this campaign will be a turning point for the drinking age issue nationally, and will jumpstart a grassroots move towards a lower drinking age.

About NYRA

The National Youth Rights Association, the foremost youth rights organization since 1998, is a Washington D.C. based, youth-led, 501(c)3 non-profit. Its mission is to promote awareness of the legal and civil rights of young people in the United States, and has done so since its founding in 1998. NYRA has nearly 5,000 members and has been featured on CNN, Fox News, PBS, NPR, Pacifica, and in the Boston Globe, LA Times, Christian Science Monitor, Baltimore Sun and dozens more.

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