

Shelby's Law Passes Legislature



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Shelby's Law is now in the governor's hands. The bill, spearheaded by a Redding couple whose daughter died of alcohol poisoning, was approved by state legislators Monday. □

The bill would hold adults who knowingly provide alcohol to minors at social gatherings civilly liable if something were to happen to one of the minors.

"We have the opportunity to prevent tragedies where kids die or seriously injure other people because they are given easy access to alcohol," says the bill's author, Southern California Assemblyman Mike Feuer.

Under current state law, parents and other adults can't be sued for giving alcohol to minors.

"I hope we can deter adults from irresponsibly making alcohol available to minors and that deterrence can save lives," says Feuer.

Seventeen year old, Shelby Allen, died in December of 2008 after drinking heavily at a friend's house.

"When you cross the line and you are feeding alcohol to other people's children you have no guarantee you will not find your own child or someone else's child dead at your home," says Shelby's mother, Debbie Allen.

Since the tragic death, Debbie Allen has made it her mission to educate teens and parents on the dangers of drinking.

"Every time I present from within my foundation or testifying at our state capital it is painful. It is reliving all the time," says Allen. "It is so important, I am so passionate about this word and these changes needing to happen that I am willing to live through whatever additional pain I need to.

The governor is expected to sign the bill.