

penalty, but I am giving the proponents of the bill that argument because it is hard to make that argument when, on the other hand, possession of alcohol by a minor is also a Class III misdemeanor. But what I am asking is that you strike from the bill allowing authorities to then proceed to take away the license in addition to this penalty, which is out of proportion. It just doesn't make any sense at all. There is no logical connection between the enormity of the penalties in this case and the offense that has been committed. Remember, again, that the offense is not drunk driving. The offense is that the youth drank alcohol before they were 21. Now maybe I am more conscious of this than others because I live in a university town, but I can tell you that the rule that youth under 21 shall not consume alcohol is probably ignored by almost...by a very large percentage, probably a majority of the university students under 21 in this town. I'd be willing to make that statement. So you say, that is no excuse, fine, but I think charging them with a Class III misdemeanor is penalty enough. I would also remind you that the drinking age is 21. That means that for 50 or 60, depending on the age, maybe 70 percent of what we are calling kids are not necessarily school kids, people still going through the education process, but probably a majority of those people, certainly a majority, when you get to age 20 and 21, are young working adults. They need their cars for work. Many of them are supporting kids. Many of them are single parents supporting kids. Taking away the car for drunk driving is one thing. Taking away the car for other violations is another matter. And I suppose you can operate under the theory that the car is a privilege and you can take it away for anything they do wrong. Maybe we should take it away if they don't go to school, or maybe we should take it away if they don't do this or that right. But I don't think that that is the purpose of the criminal law, and I think that in this regard in having a double penalty for something that is not even drunk driving in a drunk driving bill is entirely inappropriate. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Before I proceed to the next speaker, I would like to introduce some guests of the Legislature. They are guests of Senator Robak. We have Judy McCarthy from Columbus and her grandchildren, Corey Florendo and Bryan Florendo. Would you folks please stand to be welcomed by the Legislature. Thank you for being with us. Next speaker, Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. You