



Priority Changes to MAP-21 Impaired Driving Countermeasures Language

The Foundation for Advancing Alcohol Responsibility (Responsibility.org), formerly known as The Century Council, has updated its drunk driving policies and fully supports many effective countermeasures. The details of our support for numerous policies are posted at:

<http://responsibility.org/who-we-are/what-we-believe/policies/>

Top Priorities:

Add comprehensive screening and assessment for all convicted DUI offenders in Section 405 as an activity states can spend impaired driving funds to implement.

Retain existing language in Section 164 that requires alcohol assessment and, if indicated, treatment for repeat DUI offenders.

Why is this of critical importance?

- Screenings identify a DUI offender's risk of recidivism and the sanction/treatment needs necessary to change behavior.
- Research shows that repeat DWI offenders often suffer from multiple disorders. In one study, in addition to a lifetime alcohol disorder, 41% of the participants had a drug-related disorder and 44% had a major mental health disorder that was not alcohol or drug-related (Shaffer et al., 2007).
- Without this critical step, long-term behavior change is unlikely for these offenders and long term reductions in drunk driving death and injury is unlikely.
- Valuable tools exist to economically and effectively assess DUI offenders for recidivism risk and mental health issues in addition to alcohol and drug dependence.

2nd Priority:

Add drug-impaired driving (DUID) programs such as improved drug testing and law enforcement training to better detect DUID drivers in Section 405 as an activity states can spend impaired driving funds to implement.

In Section 405, retain **DWI Courts** within the court support of high visibility enforcement efforts. DWI courts are one of the best investments in reducing impaired driving among high risk DWI offenders.

In Section 405, retain **training/education for judges, prosecutors, probation/parole, and law enforcement** already included in court support of high visibility enforcement efforts. It is critically needed.

3rd priorities:

Add exemptions (medical, employment) to the Ignition Interlock Incentive Grant in Section 405 that will allow more states with mandatory laws for all convicted DUI offenders to receive incentive grant funding.

Add exemptions (medical, employment) to the ignition interlock requirements in Section 164 (existing repeat DUI offender sanction).

- We believe these exemptions should be allowed but states must address the potential public safety risk they could pose. Offender monitoring should be done and can be applied in these instances to ensure offender compliance with sanctions.

Other provision of note:

24/7 Sobriety Programs. Responsibility.org supports 24/7 sobriety programs when used with repeat DUI offenders. We do not believe 24/7 sobriety programs should be used in lieu of ignition interlocks. As it relates to Section 164, if the Congress adds 24/7 sobriety programs, we recommend also including economical offender monitoring programs such as the San Joaquin County Superior Court Comprehensive DUI Program and Isanti County, MN Staggered Sentencing programs which are extremely successful and well-researched. This will allow more flexibility for states since only a handful of states currently utilize 24/7 sobriety programs.