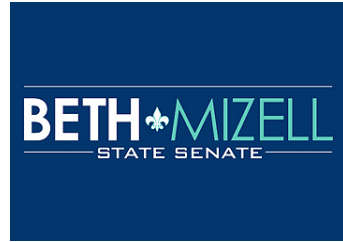


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MIZELL BRINGS CARD 'EM BILL TO SENATE IN HONOR OF MADISON BROOKS

Madison Brooks CARD 'EM Act - Create Alcohol Responsibility & Deterrence

Franklinton, Louisiana, March 31, 2023 - In response to the tragic death of Madison Brooks, Louisiana State Senator Beth Mizell has introduced SB 194, the **CARD 'EM Act (Create Alcohol Responsibility & Deterrence)**, that would synchronize Louisiana with the rest of the United States and ban anyone under the age of 21 from entering bars.

Madison Brooks, a 19-year-old Louisiana State University student, was raped before being struck and killed by a car in January of this year after being overserved as an underage teenager at a local bar. Medical and toxicology reports found that Brooks had injuries consistent with sexual assault and that her blood alcohol content was above the legal limit to drive in Louisiana. Three of the four assailants in the case were also under the age of 21, the other was 28 years old. Despite being under the legal drinking age of 21, Madison and her perpetrators had all been served alcohol at a local bar before her tragic death.

Senator Mizell's Senate Bill 194 aims to prevent similar tragedies by banning anyone under 21 from entering bars. **"It's time for Louisiana to join the rest of the country and prohibit anyone under 21 from entering a bar."** Louisiana's drinking age has been set at 21 since 1996.

We love and respect the military in Louisiana. Like every other state in America, Louisiana law should be in line with the rest of the United States and those under 21 should not be allowed in a bar.

Opponents may try and question the economic impact this legislation could have on bars in our state. However, if these bars are operating legally and not selling to anyone under 21 as the law has outlined since 1996, eliminating underage attendance will have no economic impact.

This is about protecting the young people of our state and minimizing tragedies like the incident that led to the death of Madison Brooks.

Senator Mizell believes that raising the age limit for entering bars will help to prevent underage drinking and make it more difficult for young adults to obtain alcohol. **"Madison's death was a tragedy that never should have happened. Three of the assailants involved in this senseless act of violence were under 21 and should have been nowhere near the bar - we cannot allow this to happen again,"** said Senator Mizell. **"We need to take strong action to prevent underage drinking and ensure that young adults in our community are safe. The "CARD 'EM" Act is a common-sense step that will help to prevent harm and save lives."**

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