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Issue The civic issue that my class and I identified was binge drinking among minors and deaths occurring due to alcohol poisoning. Teenagers are inexperienced when it comes to drinking and at first act irresponsibly with alcohol. Minors are afraid of the legal or parental consequences of underage drinking. Due to this they do not call for help or seek medical attention when a friend is in danger.

Project Description There is a Medical Amnesty Law in Florida that only regards drug overdoses. We would like to see it amended to include alcohol-related emergencies. The "911 Good Samaritan Act" in place states that if someone is involved in a drug-related emergency or needs medical attention, someone can call 911 and not receive any legal punishments, neither will the person needing medical attention. In our research we realized that there have been numerous deaths involving alcohol poisoning among minors that could have been prevented if someone had called for help. Having this law amended would help save the lives of underage binge drinkers who may be at risk. In fear of the repercussions with the law and parents, minors tend to shy away from the emergency instead of calling for help. We conducted a survey, wrote emails and letters, face-timed and interviewed members of our community, local and state governments. We had the opportunity to interview Florida State Representatives Manny Diaz Jr. and Dwight Bullard, Officer Armando Sotero, and Miami Lakes City council member Ceasar Mestre. We contacted organizations such as Medical Amnesty Org., Natl. Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Project Outcome We have not taken this project any further than the Project Citizen competition. However, we are looking to move forward with this project and introduce this bill to legislature. We hope that getting the word out in our state will encourage representatives to join our mission.

Request We would truly appreciate his/her feedback on whether they believe this is a concern in Florida that needs to be addressed and if the amendment to the current act is a possibility.