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Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Jessica Bottoms. I am 18-years-old, and a concerned citizen of Carson City. The reason I am here today is to testify in favor of bill A.B.7 in hopes that it will pass this legislative session. Driving a vehicle with a Blood Alcohol Content of .08 (or higher) is extremely dangerous. According to the *National Highway Traffic Safety Administration*, the Blood Alcohol Content of .08 is the level at which the lethal crash risk drastically increases. At this point, almost everyone's critical driving skills are seriously impaired including: steering, braking, lane changing, judgment, and response time (See Chart 5). Consequently, the risk of a driver being killed in a collision at .08 BAC is at least 11 times that of a sober driver. At .10 BAC the risk escalates to about 20 times higher than for a sober driver (Zador, MADD.org). These risk estimates are significantly higher if the driver is inexperienced, especially if they are a male (See Charts 1, 2, 3, 4).

Furthermore, changing the DUI limit from .10 BAC to .08 BAC would save people's lives. According to the NHTSA, more Americans have died in alcohol-related traffic crashes than in all the wars the United States has fought in since our country was founded. A .08 BAC limit would help the most in the prevention of many deaths. If every state passed a .08 BAC law, about 500 lives each year could be saved (Hingson, MADD.org).

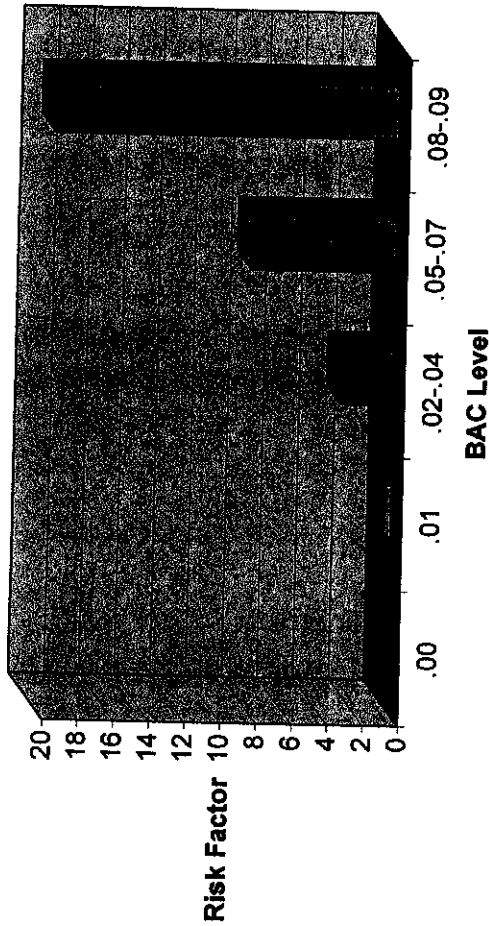
People who drive under the influence not only endanger themselves, but also the people around them. When a bad habit affects other people it then becomes a problem for everyone. According to the NHTSA, an estimated three of every ten Americans will take part in an alcohol-related traffic crash at some time in their lives. This means that if you, who like me are lucky enough not to have been involved, or know anyone involved in an alcohol-related collision yet, chances are, that might change at some point. Thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony.

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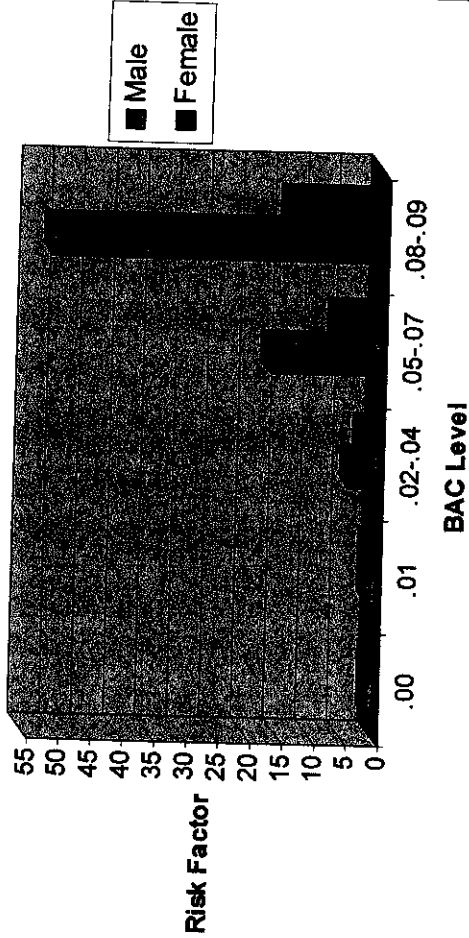
ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY
DATE: 3/2/03 ROOM: 3128 EXHIBIT C
SUBMITTED BY: JESSICA BOTTOMS

Risk Factor Charts

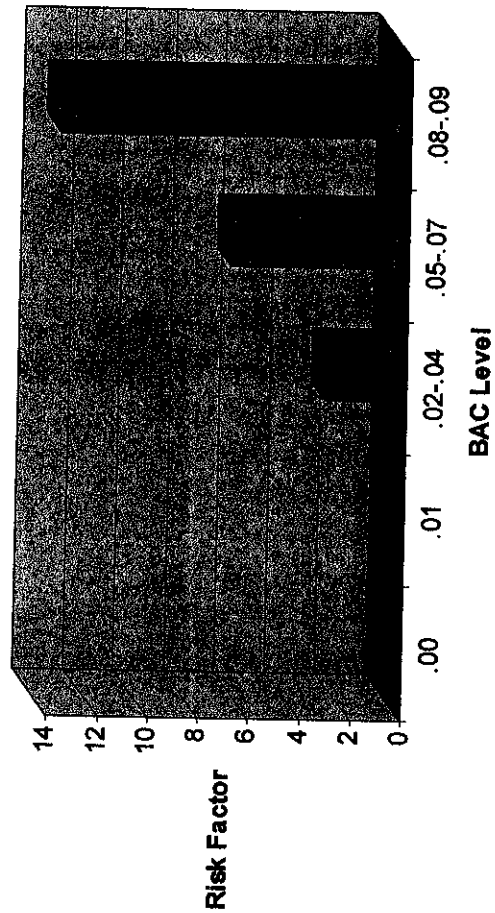
Average Driver Fatality Risk Estimates for Single Vehicle Crashes all Ages (Chart 1)



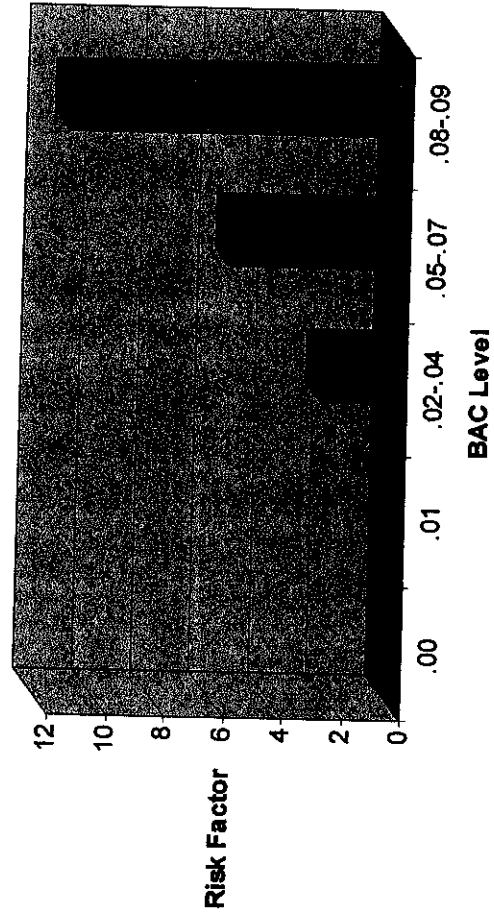
Driver Fatality Risk Estimates for Single Vehicle Crashes Ages 16-20 (Chart 2)



Driver Fatality Risk Estimates for Single Vehicle Crashes Ages 21-34 (Chart 3)



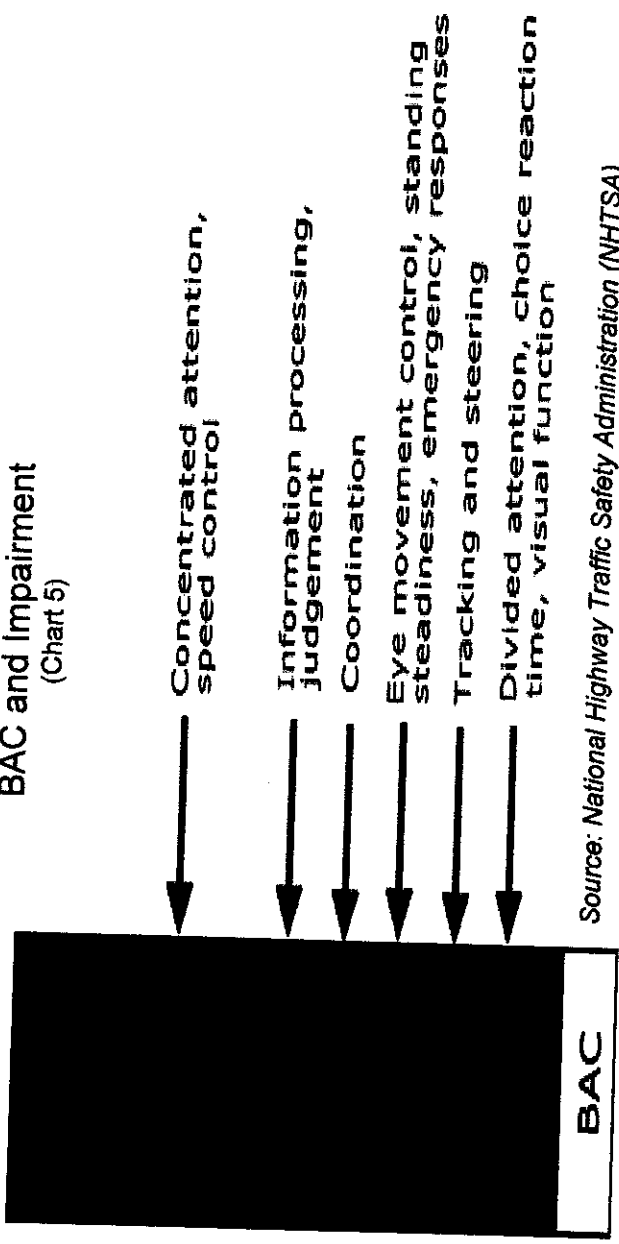
Driver Fatality Risk Estimates for Single Vehicle Crashes Ages 35+ (Chart 4)



*Zador, P. L., Krawchuk, S.A., & Voas, R.B. (2000). Relative Risk of Fatal Crash Involvement by BAC, Age, and Gender (Report HS-809-050). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/alcohol/pub/risk-relation.pdf>

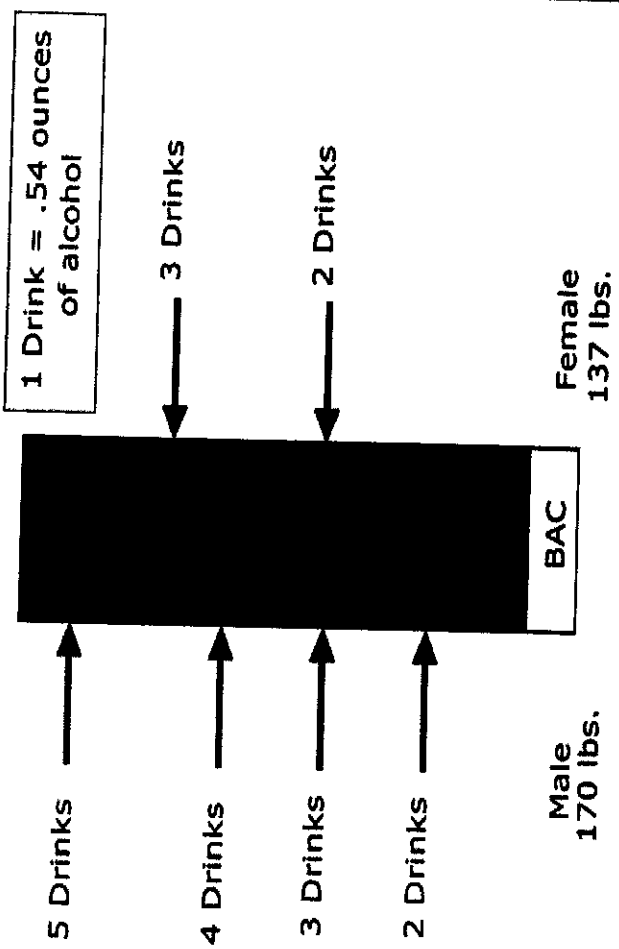
MADD.com Charts

BAC and Impairment
(Chart 5)

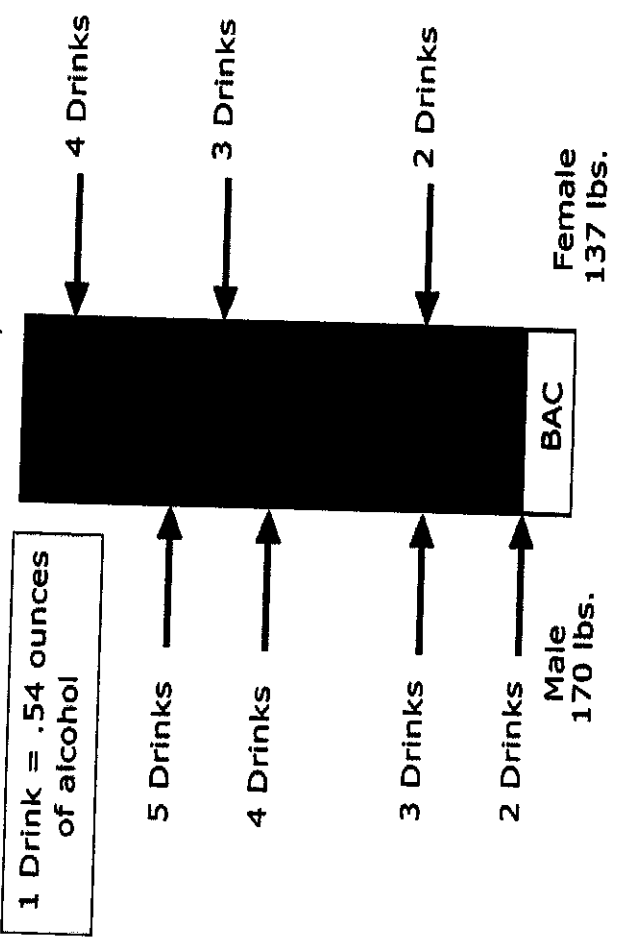


Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

Number of Drinks and BAC in One Hour of Drinking
(For Your Information)



Number of Drinks and BAC in Two Hours of Drinking
(For Your Information)



3
2
3