California Alcohol Policy Alliance

Senator Kevin de León (Chair)
Senate Rules Committee
State Capitol, Rm. 400
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax (916) 445-1830

January 10, 2018

RE: Reject re-introduction of alcoholic beverages hours of sale legislation

Dear Chairman de León:

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 21, Chapter 109, Introduction of Bills, 54. (c) states: “Unless approved by the Committee on Rules of the house of origin, a Member may not author a bill during a session that would have substantially the same effect as a bill he or she previously introduced during that session.”

With this letter, the California Alcohol Policy Alliance (CAPA) is emphatically expressing its opposition to any new legislation in 2018 to extend legal hours of alcohol sales in California, and requesting that any 4 a.m. closing time legislation be rejected in this session under the aforementioned rule.

In 2017, Senator Wiener introduced SB 384, a controversial piece of legislation that would have stripped away statewide protections of a normal 2 a.m. closing time. It was turned into a study in the Assembly Committee on Appropriations and then gutted by the author and changed to a different topic. We are respectfully asking you to invoke the above rule and return to Senator Wiener any such new 4 a.m. bar bill that he places in front of your Rules Committee.

We are concerned because on November 29, 2017 Senator Wiener announced he would re-introduce a new 4 a.m. bar bill in 2018, as a six-city, five-year experiment. Allowing his bill to be applied in six cities – including Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Francisco, Long Beach, West Hollywood and Oakland – does not make the bill substantially different than the previously defeated bill. 17% of California’s population is in those cities and 76% reside in the greater urban areas surrounding those cities, and they always were the most likely cities to consider local party districts under SB 384.

In addition, given the demonstrated ties between alcohol over-service and sexual assault and rape, another 4 a.m. bar bill could not be more ill-timed. With the sexual assault and harassment turmoil affecting the legislature, passage of this bill will seem tone-deaf at best. At worst, it will be seen as turning a blind eye to the very real alcohol-related problems facing Sacramento and the state.

California already suffers more alcohol-related harm than any other state. Please do not allow another dangerous nightlife experiment to produce more harm. We ask that any reintroduction of a 4 a.m. bar bill under a different number be rejected by the Senate Rules Committee.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Zadikar
Co-Chair CAPA

Bruce Lee Livingston
Executive Director / CEO
Alcohol Justice

AlcoholPolicyAlliance.org
Jorge Castillo, Advocacy Director | 415-257-2488 | jorgec@alcoholjustice.org
Sara Cooley, Advocacy Manager | 734-646-4575 | sarac@alcoholjustice.org
1024 North Maclay Avenue #M-13 | San Fernando, CA  91340