



March 11, 2021

Assembly Member Jim Frazier,
Chair of the Governmental Organization Committee
1020 N Street, Room 360A
Sacramento, California 95814

AB 929 (Levine) Alcoholic beverages: licensed premises: extensions – OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Frazier,

Alcohol Justice respectfully OPPOSES AB 929 because extending the sales and consumption footprint of a licensee under temporary COVID-19 alcohol regulatory rollbacks tramples established regulations that protect public health and safety and should not become permanent.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), California already suffers more annual alcohol-related harm than any other state: over 10,500 alcohol-related deaths, \$35 billion in total costs, \$14.5 billion in state costs.

The “regulatory relief” extended to many alcohol-industry stakeholders during the COVID-19 pandemic have only added to that sad list, doing far more harm than good. By allowing cocktails-to-go, expansion of sales and consumption into public spaces and parking lots, and license fee elimination, the state has crippled the protective framework that helps shield residents and visitors from opportunistic industry exploitation, over-consumption, and alcohol-related harm and cost.

Making any temporary regulatory rollbacks permanent or framing new attacks on existing alcohol regulations as “COVID-related” necessity will only serve to advance alcohol-industry profits at the expense of a healthy community’s quality of life. AB 929 is a give-away to any “caterer” that forces the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) to allow dramatically increased sales of beer, wine, and distilled spirits at conventions, sporting events, trade exhibits, picnics, social gatherings, or similar events held any place in the state. This wholesale expansion will fuel increased availability, over-consumption and harm.

AB 929 will not help the state recover from the pandemic. We respectfully ask that you stop this bill in your committee to prevent additional public health and safety harm.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Lee Livingston".

Bruce Lee Livingston
Executive Director / CEO

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