



April 5, 2021

Senator Bill Dodd, Chair
Senate Committee on Governmental Organization
1020 N Street, Room 584
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 793 (Wiener) Alcoholic beverages. -- OPPOSE

Dear Chairman Dodd,

Alcohol Justice respectfully OPPOSES SB 793 because it is dangerous deregulation for the sake of corporate profits.

1. The bill (Section 23406) allows minors to be in a licensed bar or restaurant that is not simultaneously serving alcohol – a deregulation measure that is impossible to enforce (as ABC would not normally survey a licensee when it is closed or when it is permitted to serve but may choose not to). ABC has long objected to minors being allowed in on-sale settings as it makes enforcement of underage drinking laws difficult.
2. Alcohol Justice also objects to this bill (SEC. 3. Section 65863.15) because it will allow “commercial zones” for the consumption of alcoholic beverages in open containers in public spaces. It is not in the best interests of public health and safety to create open-air bars where people of all ages may be present. It will expose impressionable young people and those battling substance use disorders to objectionable consumption of alcoholic beverages. If passed, this bill would allow cities to create vast party zones, blocking off streets, sidewalks, parking lots, and even commercial area parks to allow public drinking, and public carrying around of open alcohol containers.

This bill basically promotes drinking everywhere, as in the model of Bourbon Street in New Orleans. There will be no accountability to the bar, restaurant or retail outlet that sold the alcohol. Therefore, the burden on local law enforcement will escalate. Alcohol will be more readily available to simply hand off from a young person of age to a fellow younger person under 21. California streets will more closely resemble the worst variety of street fair where alcohol is allowed, which has long been acknowledged as a bad public health and public safety practice.

3. All the sections dealing with a music venue license are also objectionable...

If passed, SB 793 will effectively force the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) to reduce important regulations. It will significantly increase the availability of alcohol to an expanding and unknown number of locations, events, and public spaces, thus extensively threatening public health and safety. In addition, it allows advertising time and space to be purchased by producers that is currently prohibited by California tied-house laws.

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. We respectfully ask that you stop this dangerous bill in your committee to ultimately prevent additional public health and safety harm in the state.

Kind regards,

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

Bruce Lee Livingston
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