



Assemblymember Reginald B. Jones-Sawyer, Sr.
Chair, California State Assembly
Committee on Public Safety
State Capitol Room 2117
Sacramento, CA 95814

January 23, 2017

via fax: 916 319-2159

RE: Assembly Bill 6 (Lackey) – Driving under the influence: drug testing - SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Jones-Sawyer:

Alcohol Justice (formerly Marin Institute) is a respected alcohol industry watchdog that has been a leading alcohol research and advocacy institution for more 30 years.

We support AB 6 because the operation of motor vehicles by drivers under the influence of alcohol and drugs remains a significant threat to the safety to Californians. Providing law enforcement with new tools to better determine whether a person is driving under the influence of drugs will improve enforcement of drugged driving laws.

Impaired driving is a serious problem. According to a 2014 California Department of Motor Vehicle report, drug-involved crash fatalities increased 28.0% in the past decade, with 818 people losing their lives in drug-involved crashes in 2012. While according to the California Office of Traffic Safety, over a quarter of all traffic fatalities involve alcohol-impaired driving. In 2014, nearly 900 deaths were reported as a result of alcohol-impaired driving in the state. In addition to the incredible emotional toll on families, the state estimates that the average alcohol-impaired traffic fatality costs \$3.8 million, including \$1 million in monetary costs and \$2.8 million in quality of life losses.

We believe AB 6 will help safeguard public health and safety in California and reduce the threat of drug-impaired driving. We respectfully request your full support of this bill when it comes before your committee.

Sincerely,

Bruce Lee Livingston

Bruce Lee Livingston
Executive Director / CEO

CC: Assemblymember Tom Lackey

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