



March 7, 2017

Senator Steven Glazer, Chairman
Senate Committee on Governmental Organization
1020 N Street, Rm. 584
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax (916) 445-5258

RE: SUPPORT SB 378 (Portantino) Alcoholic beverages: licenses: emergency orders

Dear Chairman Glazer:

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

We support SB 378 because the state suffers more than \$35 billion dollars in alcohol-related harm and 10,500 alcohol-related deaths annually. We believe this new law will help safeguard public health and safety and reduce the number of problem alcohol retailers in California.

While existing law provides the Department of Alcohol Beverage Control with exclusive authority to revoke the license of problem retailers, such as those that make underage sales, disturb the neighbors, or engage in other illegal behavior, there is a need for the emergency orders that SB 384 will create to immediately suspend, limit, or condition a license to protect against an immediate threat to health and safety.

We also support SB 378 because we recognize that there are 90,000+ alcohol licenses in California and approximately only 125 ABC officers in the field. Thus ABC enforcement often allows problem retailers to continue operation long after the community raises concerns. Providing the new tool of rapid revocation of a problem license will provide a strong incentive for retailers to not allow problems from starting or continuing. We enthusiastically support the passage of SB 378.

Sincerely,

Bruce Lee Livingston

Bruce Lee Livingston
Executive Director / CEO

*cc: - Members of Senate Committee on Governmental Organization
- Senator Portantino (author) Fax 916 651-4925*