



California Alcohol Policy Alliance

Alcohol Justice
Alcohol-Narcotic Education
Foundation
ADAP, Inc.
Behavioral Health Services, Inc.
CA Council on Alcohol Problems
Center for Open Recovery
Eden Youth and Family Center
Institute for Public Strategies
FASD Network of Southern CA
FreeMUNI – SF
Friday Night Live Partnership
Koreatown Youth and Community
Center
L.A. Drug & Alcohol Policy Alliance
Lutheran Office of Public Policy CA
MFI Recovery Center
Mountain Communities Family
Resource Center
Partnership for a Positive Pomona
Paso por Paso, Inc.
Project SAFER
Pueblo y Salud
Reach Out
San Marcos Prevention Coalition
San Rafael Alcohol & Drug Coalition
SF DogPAC
SAY San Diego
Saving Lives Drug &
Alcohol Coalition
Tarzana Treatment Centers, Inc.
The Wall Las Memorias Project
UCEPP / Social Model Recovery
Systems
Women Against Gun Violence
Youth for Justice

March 1, 2017

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

Fax (916) 445-5258

RE: OPPOSE: SB 384 (Wiener) Alcoholic beverages: hours of sale

Dear Chairman Glazer:

The California Alcohol Policy Alliance (CAPA) is dedicated to uniting diverse organizations and communities in California to protect health and safety, and prevent alcohol-related harm through statewide action.

According to the 2015 published research study, *2010 National and State Costs of Excessive Alcohol Consumption*, alcohol-related harm costs California \$35 billion annually, with local and state governments paying \$14.5 billion annually. Approximately 10,500 people a year die from alcohol-related, preventable harm. This \$35 billion amount includes the total alcohol-related cost of crime, injuries, traffic accidents, and illnesses that plague California with a closing time for alcohol sales of 2 a.m. Adding more hours of alcohol consumption will only increase those problems and costs.

SB 384 lacks any evidence to support the bill author's claim that extending hours of sale would not increase alcohol related harm. Extending alcohol service hours at bars and nightclubs would bring associated public safety risks and increased law enforcement costs, according to recent research.

Proponents of extending hours overlook and/or disregard substantial evidence, as well as a recommendation from the U.S. Community Prevention Services Task Force, indicating the dangers of extended alcohol service hours. California lawmakers must examine all the evidence and act to protect the public safety of their constituents.

In November 2010, the Task Force conducted a systematic review of available studies and recommended against extending hours of alcohol sales/service. The Task Force repeated peer-reviewed evidence showing that "increasing hours of sale by two or more hours found increases in vehicle crash injuries, emergency room admissions, and alcohol-related assault and injury."

AlcoholPolicyAlliance.org

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**ALCOHOL
JUSTICE**
The Industry Watchdog



California Alcohol Policy Alliance

The Task Force is an independent, nonfederal, unpaid panel of public health experts that provides evidence-based findings and recommendations about policies to improve health. The then Task Force chair, Jonathan Fielding, co-authored the published review and recommendation.

Here are specific concerns with SB 384 that we do not feel can be overcome:

- California communities, overburdened with alcohol-related harm both economic and social, do not have the resources to mitigate the additional harms of late night drinking.
- In modern California cities, we are trying to promote health lifestyles and dense housing near transportation hubs. This legislation moves entirely the other direction in public policy, promoting more alcohol consumption and binge drinking, and promoting noise, nuisance and safety concerns near dense, downtown development.
- There is no ABC capacity to regulate late night bars. Already ABC has one staff person for every 1000 licenses, and they just do not work past midnight.
- There is little to no mass transportation available in most cities at 4 a.m., meaning that this legislation could directly contribute to more drunk driving and preventable traffic collisions, injury and death – and burden on emergency rooms.
- With bars and restaurants in one municipality staying open until 4 a.m., impaired or drunk drivers will hit the roads to travel back to their suburban homes. Just one drunk driving collision at 5 a.m. could snarl early morning commute hours in many places, such as for example the Bay Bridge or at the Caldecott Tunnel.
- Bars and restaurants already could make profits after 2 a.m. by locking up their alcohol and serving juice, soda or food to late night customers. This bill is about maximizing unhealthy alcohol profits, and not the best way to promote economic survival of nightlife.

SB 384 is legislation that will endanger many lives and deteriorate quality of life. The bill language also fails to address the need to compensate for the increased local costs of enforcement, compliance, and mitigations to ensure that the public health and safety are protected. We respectfully request that you forcefully oppose this bill in the Senate Committee on Governmental Organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard L. Zaldivar".

Richard L. Zaldivar
Chair, CAPA

cc: - Members of Senate Committee on Governmental Organization
- Senator Wiener (author) Fax [916 651-4911](tel:9166514911)