



Senator Jim Beall
Chair, California Senate Transportation & Housing Committee
State Capitol Room 2209
Sacramento, CA 95814

January 25, 2017

via fax: 916 445-2209

RE: SB 65 (Hill) – Vehicles: alcohol and marijuana: penalties - SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Beall:

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

We support SB 65 because impaired driving of any type of vehicle is a serious problem in California. The operation of vehicles by drivers under the influence of alcohol and drugs represents a significant threat to safety in our state. 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 the interventions provided by SB 65, such as the option of ordering a defendant to attend drug education and counseling classes, are aimed at reducing drinking, drug use and driving and will help reduce impaired driving harm.

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: Senator Jerry Hill
Senator Mike McGuire

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