



Senator Nancy Skinner
Chair, California Senate Public Safety Committee
State Capitol Room 2031
Sacramento, CA 95814

February 7, 2017

via fax: 916 445-4688

RE: SB 67 (Bates) – Sentencing: driving under the influence – Change from SUPPORT to NEUTRAL

Dear Chairwoman Skinner,

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 are changing our position on SB 67 from SUPPORT to NEUTRAL because we have become concerned about how the increased penalties associated with this measure could likely fall more heavily upon poor, minority, and immigrant populations.

Yes the impaired driving of any type of vehicle is a serious problem in California and in general, stronger deterrents are required. But without language, which would place limitations on a disproportionate application of this measure to poor, minority, and immigrant populations, we can no longer support SB 67, and respectfully adopt a neutral position.

In addition to stronger DUI deterrents that will not unfairly target poor and minority individuals, state and local governments efforts should support the reduction of alcohol availability, which is an evidence-based strategy to effectively reduce alcohol-related harm.

Sincerely,

Bruce Lee Livingston

Bruce Lee Livingston
Executive Director / CEO

CC: Senator Patricia Bates
Senator Mike McGuire

via fax: 916 651-4936
916-651-4902