



April 10, 2017

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

via fax: 916 445-4688

**RE: SB 698 (Hill) SUPPORT – Driving under the influence:  
alcohol and marijuana.**

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.

Alcohol Justice supports SB 698 because scientific evidence increasingly is showing that mixing of cannabis with alcohol accelerates the dangers of alcohol consumption for drivers. This legislation is a breakthrough in cracking down on impaired driving in California.

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 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 SB 698 will help safeguard public health and safety in California and reduce the threat of drug-impaired driving.

**We respectfully request a YES VOTE on SB 698.**

Sincerely,

*Bruce Lee Livingston*

Bruce Lee Livingston  
Executive Director / CEO

CC: Members of the California Senate Public Safety Committee  
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