



Office of the San Diego City Attorney

Mara W. Elliott
City Attorney

June 19, 2018

The Honorable Adam C. Gray, Chairman
Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization
1020 N Street, Room 156
Sacramento, CA 95814

Oppose Senate Bill (SB) 905 (Wiener) Alcoholic Beverage: Hours of Sale

Dear Chairman Gray:

The San Diego City Attorney's Office opposes SB 905, which allows cities to extend bar hours. My Office prosecutes a wide variety of crimes, including driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol. In 2017, my Office reviewed 3,169 alcohol DUI cases, and prosecuted 3,031. Public safety is our number one priority. This bill jeopardizes public safety by extending hours of alcoholic beverage sales at bars and nightclubs. Extending the current hours of sale allows the clientele of these establishments to have one last drink before they hit the road, putting lives at risk. Our concern is exacerbated by the State's findings in a research study that was published in 2015 entitled "2010 National and State Costs of Excessive Alcohol Consumption," which concludes that alcohol-related harm costs California \$35 billion annually, with local and state governments paying \$14.5 billion annually. The study further notes that approximately 10,500 people die each year from alcohol-related preventable harm. In our opinion, this is an entirely avoidable statistic. We strongly oppose this legislation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mara W. Elliott".

Mara W. Elliott
City Attorney

MWE:vj