



## Office of the San Diego City Attorney

**Mara W. Elliott**  
City Attorney

March 21, 2019

The Honorable Jerry Hill  
State Capitol, Room 5035  
Sacramento, CA 95814

*Senate Bill (SB) 545 (Mandatory Ignition Interlock for DUI Offender Act of 2019) – Support*

Dear Senator Hill:

The San Diego City Attorney's Office supports SB 545 (Hill), which requires all DUI offenders to install ignition interlock devices (IIDs) in their vehicles to prevent drunk driving.

More than 1,000 people die and about 20,000 are injured each year in California as a result of drunk driving.

Our office aggressively targets individuals who drive under the influence of alcohol and drugs in the City of San Diego and works closely with law enforcement to hold accountable those who endanger the community. In 2018, our office prosecuted 3039 DUIs, including drugged driving and drug and alcohol combination cases with a conviction rate of over 99%. Our goal is to prevent impaired driving and reduce alcohol and drug-impaired traffic deaths and injuries.

SB 545 will be a useful tool in preventing unnecessary drunk driving deaths.

Data released by the Department of Motor Vehicles showed that a 2009 bill (AB 91) piloting required IIDs for all DUI offenders in four counties was effective at reducing DUI recidivism. The report found that "the AB 91 IID group is associated with 73% lower odds or hazards of a subsequent DUI conviction relative to the comparison group of suspended drivers and 74% lower odds or hazards of a subsequent DUI incident relative to the comparison group of suspended drivers."

A report released by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) in 2016 found that IIDs in California had prevented over 1 million instances of drinking and driving since 2010.

In 2016, SB 1046 was introduced to expand the pilot program's IID requirement for all DUI offenders statewide. The bill passed, however a last-minute amendment made IIDs for first-time offenders optional instead of mandatory. SB 545 would remedy that by mandating

the installation of IIDs in the vehicles of all DUI offenders, as was done in the 2009 pilot legislation. SB 545 also includes assistance to make the cost of IIDs accessible to low-income offenders.

For these reasons, the San Diego City Attorney's Office supports SB 545.

Sincerely yours,



Mara W. Elliott  
City Attorney

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