

ALCOHOL POLICY PANEL

OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Beth Sise
Policy Panel Chair
Director
Research and Injury Prevention
Trauma Service
Scripps Mercy Hospital

April 29, 2020

Cally Bright
Deputy District Attorney
San Diego County

Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez

Cynthia Burke
Director, Criminal Justice
Research Division
San Diego Association of Governments

State Capitol

P.O. Box 942849

Sacramento, CA 94249-0080

RE: Senate Bill 58 (Wiener) – Continue to Oppose

Keith Burke, Ph.D.
Professor of Behavioral Sciences
Alcohol & Other Drug Studies Program
San Diego City College

Dear Assemblywoman Gonzalez,

Chief Craig Carter, Retired
Escondido Police Department

On behalf of the Alcohol Policy Panel of San Diego County, I want to thank you for expressing your opposition to Senate Bill 58, also known as the 3 a.m. Bar Bill, during the 2019 legislative session. We are grateful you made public health and safety a priority and recognized the added burden extended alcohol sales hours would place on law enforcement, other first responders, and the community.

Lieutenant Christopher Collier
San Diego County Sheriff's Department

As you may know, there are plans to have SB 58 reconsidered in the 2020 legislative session, and we ask that you continue to oppose this bill because any potential benefit from a few more sales will not offset the harmful costs to our communities.

SB 58 will place additional demands on law enforcement and emergency service providers, resulting in delayed emergency response times. It creates an unfunded mandate for law enforcement across the state who will have to extend DUI checkpoints and saturation patrols further into the morning hours in order to identify drunk drivers leaving the bars. Studies out of New York State and throughout the world have shown increased rates of both drunk driving crashes and violent crime when business hours of bars and other alcohol establishments are extended. We urge you to make law enforcement and other emergency service representatives part of the consideration process for this bill.

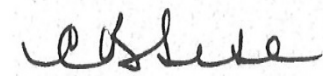
Although San Diego County is not a part of the pilot project, this bill concerns us because it simply is not a good policy and will pave the way for broader implementation down the road. Furthermore, it will have regional consequences for municipalities within driving distance of cities who adopt the later closing time, forcing neighboring cities to absorb increased financial and societal burdens.

Governor Brown vetoed a similar bill (SB 905) during a prior legislative session, highlighting the impact that extended bar hours would have on law enforcement – especially the California Highway Patrol.

The Alcohol Policy Panel of San Diego County is a diverse coalition of community leaders whose mission is to advance alcohol policies that promote safe, healthy, thriving communities. We have significant concerns about SB 58. The bill would extend the closing time for bars and other alcohol-related establishments from 2 a.m. to 3 a.m. If the bill passes, more than 76 percent of the state's population could be impacted, according to the California Alcohol Policy Alliance.

We thank you for your help in keeping California healthy, safe and thriving.

Respectfully,



Beth Sise
Chairperson, Alcohol Policy Panel of San Diego County

Salvador Garcia
Youth Development Project Specialist
San Diego Co. Office of Education

Chief Adolfo Gonzales
San Diego County Probation Dept.

Carol Green
President, Ninth District PTA

Melissa Halter
Assistant Vice President
Student Wellness
University of San Diego

Chief Roxana Kennedy
Chula Vista Police Department

Chief James Miyashiro
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Chairperson
Otay Mesa Parks & Recreation Board

Stacie Perez
Director
Housing & Clinical Services
Episcopal Community Services

Chief David Rose
UCSD Police Department

Jennifer Santis
Community Liaison
Courage to Call
Mental Health Systems

Stan Stanley
Executive Director
Pathfinders of San Diego

Scott Suckow
Executive Director
American Liver Foundation
Pacific Coast Division