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April 17, 2017

Ramona Prieto
Acting Director
California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control
3927 Lennane Drive, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95834

Re: SB 384 (Weiner): Alcoholic Beverages: Hours of Sale (Oppose)

Dear Ms. Prieto:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO) voted at the CCLHO Board meeting on April 6, 2017 to take an Oppose recommendation on SB 384 (Weiner), a bill that would allow local governments to extend from 2 am to 4 am the hours of alcohol beverage service at licensed premises, subject to approval by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC).

CCLHO encourages an Oppose position, as extending the hours of alcohol sales is associated with numerous health and safety concerns. The US Community Preventive Services Task Force (Task Force) reviewed available studies in 2009 (with document updates in 2013) and recommended against extending hours of alcohol sales/service. The Task Force assessed peer-reviewed studies and found that an increase by two or more hours for alcohol sales was associated with increases in vehicle crash injuries, emergency room admissions, and alcohol-related assault and injury (one study found a decrease in violent crime). The proposed extension in hours of alcohol sales would likely increase the number alcohol-related injuries. Furthermore, these issues would be exacerbated by the relative lack of public transportation during these hours and the strain on local law enforcement in many communities.

CCLHO was established in statute in 1947 to advise the California Department of Health Services (now the California Department of Public Health), other departments, boards, and commissions, as well as officials of federal, state and local agencies, the Legislature and other organizations on all matters affecting health. CCLHO membership consists of all legally appointed physician health officers in California's 61 city and county jurisdictions.

This position of oppose for extending the hours of alcoholic beverage service is consistent with CCLHO's strategic priority of taking a leadership role in the practice of public health and policy development. This position is further consistent with the legislative priority of providing recommendations on population-based issues that affect the health of all Californians.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Ken.Cutler@co.nevada.ca.us or at 530-265-7154.

Sincerely and on behalf of the CCLHO membership,

Ken Cutler, MD, MPH
President, California Conference of Local Health Officers

cc: Karen Smith, Director and State Public Health Officer, California Department of Public Health

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