



**Selected Comments from the 2,832 Letters of Opposition
(as of 4/21/13)
Submitted to Members of the CA Senate GO Committee
and Senator Leno via an Alcohol Justice *Action Alert***

Stacey A

I am no longer in your district (I'm in Marin), but I have voted for you in every office race I could until it was redistricted out of my hands. I did so because you are a fine and decent public servant who prioritizes the legislative issues that matter most for the people.

You are a champion of public health, and this is why I do not understand why you would want to make SB 635 a fight of yours. It moves the 2 am "last call" to 4 am. You of all people know many people who work in our City drive from a long way away and start their drives as early as 4am. If the morning commute is combined with the end of libations, don't you think this would be a very bad situation on the public roadways?

I am no fan of people using phones in their cars, but even I can see nothing worse than people doing their early morning commute crossing paths with people too damned drunk to realize that being in a bar 'til 4 am is not the healthiest thing. I am no champion of prohibition. Nevertheless, I am also no fan of wanton stupidity in public policy-making.

Please, Mark, don't put angry early morning commuters on the roads at the same time that last-call drunks are getting in their cars and driving home. California has enough to deal with; please don't give us this conflict too. Please back off on SB 635 and stop promoting it--it will only hurt those of us who drive on our roads. Cheers from a former constituent and constant supporter.

Patricia J

In 1987 I lost my five year-old son to a drunken driver on Christmas Eve. My family has never recovered from the loss. I strongly oppose extending drinking hours in California. Please vote NO on extending drinking hours. We already pay too high a price for drinking in California.

Nancy E

This is the craziest, most irresponsible action the California legislature could take! I am calling on you to do everything in your power to kill this bill. Nothing good can come out of people drinking two more hours into the night. Bars and restaurant owners may make more money but everyone else will pay the price. I am counting on you to do the right thing. Kill this bill now!!! Thank you in advance.

Brenda S

The Institute for Public Strategies (IPS) has been in the business of positive community change since its inception in 1992. As a 501c(3) nonprofit organization, IPS works to increase public health and safety by helping communities create sustainable change through Environmental Prevention system design, knowledge transfer, and project planning and implementation. IPS does not support SB 635, because it will contribute to more alcohol related harms in California.

Caroline S

Mark, you're smarter than this.

Kathy K

I am strongly opposed to SB 635. This extension on drinking hours will have serious negative consequences. I do not want MY adult children out drinking until 4am nor do we want anyone else. 2am is too late as it is!

Marsha E, MD

As a physician I am totally opposed to SB 635.

Gary S

The cost to our communities and the potential damage and costs of law enforcement concern me greatly. This is unacceptable!

Elizabeth H

Think of all the people this bill puts in danger - bus drivers starting their first run, delivery people making early deliveries to restaurants and other businesses, everyone who arrives early to get the lights and heat on, or to start helping patients in hospitals and clinics, or who cleans before the morning shift arrives, or who cooks for the morning crowd. All those people are in danger from drunk drivers who are finally veering home after last call. We depend on those working people. Does a bar owner who wants to make more money off of alcoholics and binge drinkers come first? I don't think so.

Please stop this irresponsible bill. Please!

Stephanie R

Please, please, please do not pass this bill!

As I understand it, the supposed "need" is that it impacts tourism. And maybe I could support a bill that allows extended hours in hotels for room service, hospitality suites and parties. When I think about my community and the impact of extended hours, it does not paint a pretty picture. Brain research now shows how addiction turns on the "go" centers of the brain and turns off the "stop" centers. (One easy source for this is the research in the HBO series on addiction.) Regardless of the intentions of the sober alcoholic, when he/she is not swept out of the bar at 2, that could mean hours more of drinking and impulsive behaviors.

In my community, we have one community event where drinking starts about 10 AM. By 4 PM the fights start. 6 hours to fighting, which current bar hours already support. I think that there is way too high a probability that extending bar hours invites violence and other sad and irrational behaviors. Haven't read the law, and can't imagine that it would require bars to stay open

longer. Community pressure might slow down longer hours, but patrons will probably determine the ultimate outcomes of the law.

Celana P

I care about people's lives and not business profits.

Ray D

Please stop SB 635 it will only shed more blood and cause more misery. When will the greed ever end? This is insane.

Mr. & Mrs. Peter R

SB 635 is foolish. Allowing more drinking later into the evening/morning will only result in more deaths. This is a very sorry way to help the economy if that is the purpose.

Sandy F

I spent 17 years living behind a bar and a nightclub in San Diego fighting them and the city to reduce the negative impact these businesses have on the community. I was constantly rebuffed but the city on the basis that they wanted to be business friendly and that I knew the situation when I moved there. As the years went by the neighborhood was intentionally transformed into a party destination and I finally had to move even though it meant a significant rent increase for me. It is a TOTAL FALSEHOOD that there will be local discussions. The residents who live next to bars have the least amount of resources to make their voices heard and the developers and bar owners have the money to tilt the argument in their favor. Please reject SB635! Those who live next to bars may have known what they were moving next to, but the deal is the mayhem stops at 2AM, this legislation breaks that social contract.

Norma Jean W

Alcoholism is an epidemic. Perhaps the bar who served the person who caused the accident that killed your loved one should pay restitution. Yes, how about that for a bill?!

Karen L

I receive numerous calls from community members who are suffering from the ravishes of the behavior of the 2:00 AM bar break crowd. They describe the worst of every type of human behavior taking place in their yards and on their front porches. Extending the hours for patrons to become more intoxicated seems ludicrous. The nominal amount of alcohol tax collected pales in comparison to the social and additional law enforcement costs created but such an absurd notion.

Gary S

The cost to our communities and the potential damage and costs of law enforcement concern me greatly. This is unacceptable!

Susan A

On February 2, 2010 my health and livelihood were destroyed by a drunk driver with a .21 driving at 9:00 PM on a Tuesday. And she was the designated driver and after totaling my car and damaging 4 others attempted to leave the scene of the accident on foot. She told the officers that the cars came out of nowhere, when there was actually 1000 feet of clear sight to the traffic light. She slammed into us at over 50 miles an hour in a 40 mph zone, in a Land

Rover which is essentially an assault vehicle. I can only hope the people who think the 4 A.M. bar bill is a good idea have an encounter with a drunk driver in which they and loved ones are maimed or killed. For far too long, drunks/alcoholics have been an acceptable part of the landscape. Drunks are glorified in movies, TV shows and literature.

Senator Leno must have no regard for those of us who would like to get from Point A to Point B without wondering if other drivers are drunk. Alcohol stays in the system so if one is drunk at 4 a.m. it is likely that one is still drunk at 10 a.m. and some soccer mom who had a night out could be driving her kids to school while still under the influence.

Senator Leno needs a major reality check. In the event this passes, California bar owners better raise their liability insurance.

Bruce L

This bill could cause a lot of noise, violence and public safety cost in our neighborhoods and cities.

Lori E

I can see no advantages to the public in extending drinking hours to 4 a.m.

James P

What a stupid idea! I'm sure the idiots who vote for this will be beloved of alcoholics and druggies everywhere.

Kathleen O

I live on the first floor near nightclubs in the Mission. As it is now with the 2 am cut off, I have had my windows smashed and endured much drunken and loud carryings on until often 3 am. I have called the police more than once when it seems a woman is getting attacked. I am very opposed to this bill.

Mr. & Mrs. L

Do not support this bill!

Stephanie B

There is a woeful shortage of ABC enforcement agents. About 165 agents for about 70,000 alcohol outlets statewide. Try getting hold of such enforcement after 5:30 pm or weekends. In Santa Monica, the police are on record as not being in the ABC enforcement business. In the late 1990's, for every 1\$ taken in, in alcohol revenue, it was costing the county of LA over \$170 in alcohol related services. This new law is very, very ill-considered and should be trounced along with its author.

Mr. & Mrs. C

You must vote "No" on SB [635](#) to stop Senator Leno's 4 a.m. bar bill!

Jean-Marie W

I am not in support of the 4am BAR Bill and ask that you not support the Bill.

Mary K

Do not expand bar and restaurant hours! This is a major problem in our society and the more people drink - the worse the problem gets! Let them go home shortly after 2:00 AM!

John L

When the clubs were active after midnight in my neighborhood we suffered shootings, beatings and much vandalism. Police were shot. There was a murder. It's a great scene here now with restaurants and a responsible music scene. When the gun carrying thugs want to get crazy, they go where they can do it late. I cannot believe Mark Leno can believe this is good for communities, for law enforcement or for the entertainment possibilities we all enjoy. The cost in emergency and police services will offset any tax profits to city.

Rosemary M

We must stop this bill...it is dangerous to individuals and the community!

Diana N

I am appalled that SB 635 is even under consideration at a time when we are trying to reduce alcohol usage, decrease negative health impacts, and reduce alcohol-related violence and deaths. What about lost productivity from workers who are partying until 4 am?! The justification regarding tourists is bogus! With only a couple of exceptions, our bars are too far from the State line to be impacted by policies of neighboring states.

Denise M

Please do not pass this legislation. There are too many negative consequences to allow bars to stay open and serve alcohol after 2 a.m.!!!

Evelyn A

In a nutshell - there is no reason for bars to be open and serving alcohol until 4 am! This is a ridiculous idea. Please vote against it.

Roxann S

Please do not vote for SB 635. Two a.m. is certainly late enough for bars. Already too many accidents occur after the close of bar at 2 a.m. We all suffer the cost and loss. Extending drinking until 4 a.m. will endanger early commuters even more than unnecessarily.

Marilyn N

This is a highly irresponsible bill! What was Senator Leno thinking by proposing such legislation? With so much alcohol addiction and drug abuse in this society, it would be immoral to extend the hours of potential abuse and temptation for those trying to stay sober as well as those who cannot achieve that goal? Are you kidding? People need to imbibe virtually all night? This is an egregious concept. If you allow this bill to pass, you will personally have blood on your hands.

Marcie B

I am a long-time resident of Pacific Beach (San Diego) and have spent the last several years trying to understand and fix the problems we have with high crime related to too many bars and bad operators. Allowing bars to serve alcohol later will only exacerbate these problems. This is exactly what has happened in Pacific Beach over the last 20 years as more and more restaurants that used to close at 10 pm have gotten new owners and are now functioning like bars and serving full spirits until 2am. There is substantial research evidence that shows

extending liquor serving times increases crime (see links at bottom). The increased costs to deal with this crime - for police, emergency and medical services - would far outweigh any sales tax revenues or other supposed benefits gained from the extended hours. The taxpayers already heavily subsidize the bar owners' bottom line by providing free policing and emergency services to inebriated patrons who hurt themselves or others, let's not make it worse. And there are many other less obvious negative impacts such as decreased property values, lower quality of life for residents, and damage to non-alcohol businesses. This is not hypothetical, we have seen it all in Pacific Beach and other San Diego communities (e.g., Downtown, North Park, Hillcrest)

And, even though SB 635 supposedly gives cities a choice of whether to allow bars to close later, we have learned through experience that if the regulations allow something, the bar owners with their loads of money and attorneys will be able to get whatever they want.

Research articles showing later bar hours mean more crime:

Effectiveness of policies restricting hours of alcohol sales in preventing excessive alcohol consumption and related harms.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21084080>

The impact of small changes in bar closing hours on violence. The Norwegian experience from 18 cities.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3380552/?report=abstract>

The impact of later trading hours for Australian public houses (hotels) on levels of violence.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/12380856>

Effects of restricting pub closing times on night-time assaults in an Australian city

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3041930/>

Dan T

Late night bars (this includes restaurants that morph into clubs) are already a disruption to residential quality of life in San Diego's urban neighborhoods. Please don't allow alcohol service to go past 2 A.M. Later night bars mean more noise, health and safety impacts costing taxpayers and residential property values.

Bill H

Please reconsider your approval of SB 635 because if you think alcohol is one of the most dangerous drugs on earth today, it will surely increase its death rate and increase the financial costs that burden this country already. It just gives more time to drink and will cause more people a longer time to become severely impaired. All community resources and our people to deal with aftermath of alcohol abuse and alcoholism will be effected on so much of a larger scale. It needs to be less use of alcohol and less time in bars if we want to have a decrease in crime and deaths. Please look at this at the systems, management and administrative levels as well as the personal consequences and costs of this deadly drug. Please do not pass this bill. It will be devastating to us all.

Anne H

As Chairman of Pomona's Youth and Family Plan I am involved in getting the community to implement strategies to decrease youth alcohol use. This bill is a move in the wrong direction. Youth get most of their alcohol from family and older friends so they could be provided alcohol

almost all night. It also tells youth that alcohol consumption is acceptable. This is not good for our city and for our state.

Nancy M

As a fifty year California resident and mother of four young adults, I adamantly oppose the extension of alcohol sales from 2 to 4am. I grew up as a "bar baby" sitting outside the backdoor of a bar in a car waiting for my alcoholic parents to finish drinking or for the bar to close whichever happened first. I can't imagine having to survive the trauma of waiting til 4 in the morning for my parents to take me home, after having an additional two hours of drinking. My two siblings and I would probably not be here now if they had had that opportunity. This is a terrible excuse for more tax dollars and jobs. It is not worth the lives that will be ruined because of the excess drinking. Please do everything in your power to make sure this destructive legislation does not pass. We need stronger laws, not weaker, when it comes to the good and safety of our children and families. Thank you.

Elisa G

Tourism is not interested in sightseeing inside bars in the wee hours of the morning. Extend park hours, museum hours, and better still, extend the hours that those elusive Tourism Information booths are open. But more drinking will only expose us to more accidents, more deaths, more alcoholism, more domestic violence, more pathology in the homes and more lives destroyed. I know because I evaluate alcoholics and drug addicts in the forensic field, and have seen how drinking destroys lives, literally. Actually, if alcohol was introduced to the FDA these days, it would not pass checks. It is metabolized into toxic metabolites that the body immediately tries to get rid of; ergo the sweating and increased urination. More drinking has only been good for those who sell the liquor.

"Whenever people say 'We mustn't be sentimental,' you can take it they are about to do something cruel. And if they add 'We must be realistic,' they mean they are going to make money out of it."

--Brigid Brophy (1929-1995)

Cynthia H

We already live in a neighborhood of San Diego, Pacific Beach, where the drinking is already out of control. We hear sirens constantly now. We have to endure disturbances in our neighborhood until 3:00 a.m. right now. If the bars are allowed to stay open until 4:00 a.m., we will have to endure disturbances until 5:00 a.m. Not to mention the fact that people will now have two extra hours to drink and therefore cause more drunk driving problems. We already have enough of that due to the high concentration of college students and military personnel.

Jon M

I am a volunteer suicide crisis counselor on a national suicide hotline, and nearly every call I get is in some way related to alcohol. We need to start taking the dangers of alcohol seriously, by decreasing its impact, and helping to prevent these tragic and unnecessary deaths from alcohol related suicide. Alcohol kills, and it destroys families. No one beats his wife, abuses his children, or kills anyone driving under the influence of nicotine. And yet all of these things happen because alcohol use is so ubiquitous and celebrated in our society. We stringently regulate and overtax tobacco, to the point that there is now a black market for cigarettes, and organized crime is getting involved. And in theory, we do all of this to prevent people from "harming themselves or others" by smoking. Yet at the same time, we do NOTHING to prevent alcohol abuse, or to tax alcohol at an equitable rate in line with the damage it causes. And we completely underfund PSA's discouraging alcohol use and offering free treatment to alcohol

abusers. The legislation you are sponsoring to expand alcohol sales is irresponsible, wrong, and horribly misguided. Please do what you can to stop the unnecessary deaths and harm caused by alcohol, rather than making it easier for them to occur.

Ann G

Senator Leno's 4 a.m. bar bill is a misguided approach to producing revenue. When you narrow focus down to only the income stream and ignore the likely consequences, you are creating bigger problems. One night 20 ago years, at 4:30 am, my sister-in-law's brother & his wife and 2 year-old son were obliterated by a drunk driver barreling through a red light at 80 mph. Extending bar hours guarantees that this kind of story will happen more often. There are responsible approaches to our economic problems. SB 635 is not one of them.

Robert B

Extending the alcohol availability in bars and restaurants to 4:00 a.m. is a horrible idea and is a serious threat to all Californians.

Melinda C

Our neighborhood in Long Beach is beleaguered by too many bars serving late into the evening and early morning and turning out extremely inebriated people who fight with each other, disrupt our residents, cause damage in our neighborhoods and cause accidents as they drive home. Please do not move forward with this dangerous legislation.

Marianne C

Please rethink your bar bill. There are already too many deaths involving alcohol and other substances. This is not safe or responsible for any community or country and makes one wonder who is in bed with you. It is scandalous. I say let's stop serving at midnight, have better enforcement of the social host law and put some needed funding into treatment programs.

Will C

Ask any police officer when they see the most DUI arrests, they'll tell you that it's within an hour or two of closing time. This legislation is clearly a ploy by the alcohol and bar/restaurant industry to make more money for themselves, at the expense of safety and security, not to mention monetary costs to society. Nothing good will come with the passage of this legislation.

Felicia F-W

We cannot afford the economic and human costs associated with bars extending their service hours.

Bernice C

In memory of one of my best friends, Hannah, who was killed by a drunk driver, I beg you to not extend drinking hours in bars. If anything, please require bars to install devices that patrons can use to check their BAC and save lives. It would also be good to stop energy drinks from being served there also. Caffeine and alcohol are a bad mix. Thank you for your help in saving lives.

K. L

Leno should be ashamed for introducing this garbage piece of legislation. It ignores every bit of research there is about controlling alcohol. He's looking for ways to do the opposite.

Nancy W

This is one of the most irresponsible bills I've ever heard of! Do we not have enough drunk drivers killing innocents, drunks beating up wives and girlfriends, raping strangers, and making too much noise on the way out? Are you getting kickbacks from the alcohol industry?

Marianne D

STOP Senator Leno's Bar Bill PLEASE!!! I do NOT want SB 635 to be passed into law. Drinking until 2 a.m. is plenty late enough. Responsible people don't need to stay out drinking until 4 a.m.

Millicent L

Please take time to consider the negative consequences of SB 635. Thank you for your careful consideration of my concerns.

Kay M

I operate two hotels in downtown Santa Barbara, where there is a heavy concentration of liquor licenses and dance clubs. This bill would be a disaster for our city.

John W

I am seriously opposed to the idea of extending the drinking time to 4 am. I grew up in Las Vegas Nevada and I saw first hand the problems that this change can cause. Please do not give in to the "party mentality" of the few. Stay true to the reasonable, responsible many.

Tom C

The science is conclusive. Longer bar hours damage public health and safety. Why not increase licensing fees and index excise tax to inflation to preserve public services associated with alcohol consumption?

Nancy H

Thank you for your careful attention to the 4 a. m. Bar Bill. This is a major public health issue. Your public service is appreciated.

Marsha E

As a physician, I am especially concerned about this bill. Thanks for your careful consideration of the consequences of this bill.

Kali J

This is just greed, pure and simple. It helps no one.

Erica L

As a public health professional and coalition leader, I am gravely concerned about a proposal to increase and extend alcohol availability.

Liz M

Once you stop DUI's, then I would agree to extend drinking hours. Be a leader and keep your citizens safe.

Elaine Z

My sincere plea goes out to you all to drop this bill with its misguided policy. We do not need people having extra alcoholic drinks between 2-4. It leads to bingeing, drunkenness, driving under the influence, and multiple consequences for Californians, and is totally unnecessary. Leave the hour of closing at 2 am, PLEASE! There are no compelling arguments in favor of this legislation. Please do not pass it.

Sandra M

You've got to be kidding me! What are you thinking?! Are extra jobs worth the extra drunk drivers & deaths that will surely occur?! Please wake up & support a HEALTHIER way of life. Don't let bars stay open till 4am.

Marci G

Senators, ENOUGH! You won't raise the alcohol tax because of the alcohol lobbyists and the "gifts" you receive from them, so now you want the bars open until 4 AM???? PLEASE think before you vote. The "legal" drug causes enough damage and costs to so many, PLEASE lets not encourage any more damage! Charge for the harm. Senator Leno you should be ashamed of even introducing such a stupid bill. However if any of you could please listen to the people who voted for you for a change it would be so refreshing, do not listen to the alcohol lobby!!!!

Robert H

Please reject SB [635](#). Problems with some restaurants and bars are already taking an enormous bite from our city's budget. Our cops, paramedics, and fire crews aren't available to protect the rest of the city, because of the problems caused by a few irresponsible bar owners in San Diego.

After more than forty years of decreasing crime in San Diego, crime is on the rise. Our police chief says it's not a statistical blip, and crime -- especially violent crime ---will continue to increase. MOST OF SAN DIEGO'S VIOLENT CRIME HAPPENS IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS WITH A HIGH CONCENTRATION OF RESTAURANTS AND BARS. Our police have to assign extra officers to these areas, to babysit the rowdy drunks, and prevent assaults. But even with that extra police presence, our "restaurant rows" turn into drunken slugfests on a regular basis.

Tourism is suffering in these neighborhoods because nobody wants to spend time in the areas that have the most assaults and rapes in the city.

Our local police oppose this bill. Mothers Against Drunk Driving opposes this bill. For the sake of preserving San Diego's public safety resource, AND our viability as a tourist destination, please reject this bill. It may have been well-intentioned, but its impacts were not thought out.

Daniel T

I am greatly opposed to extending bar hours until 4 A.M. I've seen too many bars in San Diego that over-serve patrons who clearly binge drink. CA-ABC and SDPD neither have the personnel, budgets or political will to prevent over-service to intoxicated individuals. Residents living in mixed-use urban neighborhoods already have their sleep and safety disturbed by those leaving the bars at 2 a.m. Two more hours is not acceptable. Vote NO on SB 635.

CAROLL F

What is going on here? Are we crazy? With education in California being in terrible condition, people unemployed, government employees being laid-off continuously and this kind of idiotic legislation being introduced. What is happening to us? Is it that we just can't fix the difficult and important problems so we are doing stuff like this? STOP IT!

Donal B

Extending the bar hours looks to be an insignificant move designed to help businesses but when you translate it to people's lives, it becomes less benign. It means more time in bar seats, imbibing alcoholic drinks that makes more alcoholics, more alcoholic accidents and violent incidents. I say no to extending the hours. It will be hurtful to the community.

Bill M

As a mission district resident, I am totally opposed to a 4AM closing. We battled the clubs in this neighborhood, before public pressure closed them down. Assaults, shootings, vandalism, screaming, vomiting, urination etc. were constants during that period. I'm sure with a 4AM closing the city would return to that situation and worse. Of course, we were accused of waging a "war on fun". If that was fun, I must be mistaken about the definition of the word. Let's not allow this bill to pass.

Lori E

I can see no advantages to the public in extending drinking hours to 4 a.m. Bars and restaurants can stay open 24 hours to serve food and beverages if they so desire. Adding two more hours to make money on alcohol might increase some profits. It certainly will NOT increase the quality of life for those in communities surrounding those venues, the money in local government coffers to deal with the increase in law-enforcement problems, or the hospital capacities to handle additional injuries that are likely. I know you will do the right thing and refuse to pass this bill.

Jacquolyn D

If the bars are levied an adequate per drink charge for all the direct harm caused by this extended drinking hours bill, then, and only, then should this bill move forward. I am one the diminishing middle class and am tired of paying for the harm caused by an alcohol industry, distributors, and dispensers that offload the cost for harm to state and local governments, which I pay dearly to support through my taxes. So NO to SB635, Senator Leno!

Roberta S

Having the bars open two hours longer will just add to the potential of car accidents when folks are on the road to work at 5:00 or 6:00 a.m. -- this bill doesn't make good public health sense.

Jack H

Nothing good happens after midnight.

Barbara B

One very important role of government is to protect the health and safety of its citizens. The impacts of SB 635, if passed, represent a serious threat to the safety and health of ALL Californians. I urge you to oppose this measure in the name of all those who will suffer its consequences. There is no reason to encourage late night drinking beyond current 2 am

closing time. It is important that those who may be drinking late at night at restaurants and bars have the opportunity to get home at a time when traffic is light and they are less likely to meet those starting their day on the way to school, work, etc. We have many long-distance commuters in our state who will be far more likely to encounter a drunk driver should alcohol service hours be extended.

Additionally, California cities are currently investing significant resources and effort to establish local bicycle facilities to present citizens with the opportunity to leave their vehicles at home in favor of using bike transportation. The added presence of drunk drivers on the road, fueled by an extra two hours of "drink time" places bike riders at an especially high risk. You can ask one of my dear friends who recently retired from a career at the LA County Dept. of Public Health all about the impacts of drunk drivers on bicyclists. Her brother, a lifelong LAUSD teacher was hit and killed by an early Saturday morning drunk driver on his way home from a night of drinking.

The economic benefit(s) that may be derived from increasing the profit of liquor sales for hotels, restaurants and bars cannot begin to offset the added costs. Already our emergency rooms are overcrowded and the costs of emergency care, particularly for the uninsured, are staggering.

The costs of caring for drunk drivers who are uninsured and for those who overindulge in alcohol such that it causes disease and disability should not be understated.

Alcohol is readily available in our state. Those who wish to purchase alcoholic beverages and take them to their home for late night consumption may do so. We have liberal laws that allow alcohol to be purchased 7 days a week and in many retail outlets/venues. To allow for a change in closing times for bars and other businesses until 4 am is lunacy.

Gerardo M

"Nothing good happens after 2am"

Ener A

I do not agree to extend drinking hours in state of California for any reason. Because the alcohol company doesn't pay for "DUI" legal issues, like court fees, classes, and other issues.

Peter L

Are you representing the people or the liquor industry? This bill will cost more than the revenue you expect to receive, not to mention lives lost.

Gina C

I serve on a policy subcommittee with the Sonoma County Prevention Partnership working to reduce the negative impacts of alcohol on our communities. This legislation sends the wrong message to young people and will only drive up our public safety budgets. This is a misguided way to improve the job market.

Raymond D

Taxpayers can't afford bad public policy that increases public safety and health care costs.

Carol B

Availability of alcohol after 2 AM can serve no healthful or helpful cause. For the sake of a safe and sane community, vote "No" on this ill-conceived legislation.

Paula W

As a voter and tax payer I do not want Senator Leno's bill in my state.

Mary H

This is ridiculous...period. Especially in San Francisco, with its legacy of alcohol consumption embedded into its culture. Give folks a few limits, we all have them, and a chance to get home before the kids wake up and come out to play and go to school, along with the rest of us. The world depends on that margin. Any other gains are marginal, at best. The losses outweigh the gains. Please - this is really not something to fight for.

Judy H

I am an alcohol researcher at UCSF. I have studied the detrimental effects of heavy alcohol consumption, here in San Francisco and around the world. There are numerous consequences to this bill and I strongly oppose it.

Joan A

There is NO sensible reason for this!

Shonda B

This bill sounds like a REALLY bad idea. I am completely opposed to it.

Marcia L

Alcohol is a serious drug, which causes at least as much damage as illegal substances.

Ann C

Any changes in the drinking hours should be earlier, not later! There is no reason for bars to be open until 4 a.m. Please stop this bill now!

Anita J

When considering the social, physical, mental and financial harm that alcohol costs California residents, it is ridiculous that the Senate would even consider extend the closing time for bars. The dollars in tourism aren't worth the increased health, safety, and collateral costs that more drinking will visit on California's people. Let's not add any more weight to our alcohol-fueled burden.

Diana L

Enough - 2 am is plenty!

Mr. & Mrs. Gerald D

STOP THIS BILL, SB 635. This bill only helps bar owners make more money and provides increased risk to alcoholics and those in contact with them. My beach community of Pacific Beach had 600 DUI's last year and the highest crime rate in San Diego. No one needs to continue drinking most of the night. Please do the right thing for residents in every community in California. Do not have another mother receive a call that her child was killed by a DUI driver.

Judy O

No! No! No! We don't need more alcohol dispensing time. We have enough noisy drunks staggering by our home in the middle of the night without encouraging two more hours of drinking.

R. D

Are you CRAZY to even consider this--living in a popular beach community that is already overrun with bars, restaurants that have liquor licenses.... we have enough issues--Senator Leno how about this, come and live in my neighborhood for 1 week and then you decide if you REALLY THINK KEEPING BARS OPEN UNTIL 4AM IS A GOOD IDEA!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Suzanne L

I am absolutely against extending alcohol sales beyond 2am. Declarations in Section 1 are counter-intuitive! For example, "...modified closing times can improve the quality of life in local jurisdictions by mitigating public safety and nuisance issues associated with the uniform 2 a.m. closing hour." Logic supposes that the safety and nuisance issues WILL get worse as more alcohol is consumed.

I live in a community over-concentrated with businesses selling on- and off-site alcohol. We have the highest alcohol related crime in the city. The ABC's practices are inefficient, poorly monitored and riddled with flaws. Alcohol licensees know these flaws and use them in their favor. Residents have little or no power to prevent bad businesses to acquire licenses, remove conditions and then extend the sales hours. PLEASE DO NOT PASS SB 635!

Carole C

We already suffer the consequences of having many times the number of bars the ABC "recommends" - not that they are of any use to those of use who want to keep a safe and beautiful community devoid of the damages and expenses of a bunch of drunks.

It took a nasty story on CNN to get drinking off our beaches. It's funny because several months earlier Councilman Kevin Falconer and Police Rep Boyd assured us in a neighborhood meeting that there were no problems. So much for them being good public servants and chalk one up for the bar owners. Of course the CNN story prompted them to take action - what a couple of overpaid and foolish "public servants".

Robert L

I strongly oppose extending alcohol sales hours. Our community is already awash in bars, alcohol and crime.

Marilyn L

I am appalled to think that bill SB635 is even being considered for passage. It is a well known fact that my community is overly saturated with bars. Local citizens are bothered already by bar noise, late night revelers, public urination, fights, and DUI's. To think that this could go on until 4AM when some people have to start getting up to go to work is outrageous. I plan to get a list

of any who vote for this. I do not want them representing the citizens they were elected to protect.

Carol D

I live in the beach community of Pacific Beach/San Diego. This is an area, which has ongoing problems with a huge oversupply of bars, which attract young drinkers who create a mess for our neighborhoods and police. The Bar Bill, which would extend drinking hours, yet another 2 hours into the morning would be disastrous for us. As our elected officials we count on you to protect our interests. Please do so by voting AGAINST this bill.

Janice S

This is the worst idea ever. Do not further ruin our neighborhood. Our town, Pacific Beach, was taken over by bars 15 years ago and we have a terrible young drunk problem. To add 2 more hours to their drinking is absurd and the noise at 4am is completely unreasonable to ask a community to accept. DO NOT DO IT.

Terrie V

I live in a community with many bars and public safety resources are already stretched to the maximum. Putting more drunks on the street at later hours is madness. Please come to my street any evening and listen to the drunks exiting the bars.

Darice and John W

Shame on anyone who thinks this bill should pass!!

Elise B

How much are the liquor companies paying you for this????

Kimberly S

How could SB 635 be a good thing for our society? It will result in drunken driving, unhealthy lifestyles, property damage, and perhaps even deaths. The costs will significantly outweigh any increased taxes or tourism. In fact, I believe it will impact our hospitals, police departments, neighborhoods, insurance rates, and societal values. SB 635 is bad for our state and for our entire wellbeing. Please focus on the true results to your own family and community from this proposed bill.

Pamela & Fred S

For the following reasons I oppose SB 635

- 1) This would put intoxicated and drunk drivers in the work time commute hours and endanger lives.
- 2) Any increase in revenue to the State is not worth the cost of people's lives and injuries.
- 3) Any increase in revenue to the State would be offset by increased costs of police and medical expenditures.

Thank you for your attention in this matter

Chip Epps

My dad used to say nothing good happens after midnight, and this is a very telling statement. 2 a.m. is a sufficient hour to commercially serve alcohol and provide a public forum for drinking. People live in San Diego in many respects for the lifestyle and climate - leave their windows open practically all year. It's bad enough that local bars project noise until 2am (they generally operate "open" storefronts due to the density of people and the nice climate as well... heaven forbid they keep the noise and drunks raging until 4am. This is NOT a jobs proposal, it is a JOBS LOSS proposal as people will tire of the attitude and culture associated with COMMERCIALIZED all night partying, and leave because they'll perform worse at work due to the increase anxiety associated with all night issues, and employers not supported by the states ABC will finally give up trying to operate a non-alcohol business in an area overrun by people partying until 4am... say that to yourself again...4AM!

As a San Diego beach resident, passing restrictions on alcohol at the beach has rejuvenated the beach for recreational use and improved tourism. However, much of the trouble has subsequently moved inland to the beach community bars. Allowing these bars to stay open until 4am is a recipe for further problems. It is not about allowing the bar owners to run a business- they are all doing fine based on the ongoing investments I see them making in their facilities. It should be about a successful mix of commercial spaces- letting bars dominate regional zoning and policy impacts the broader success of the community.

Diana L

Enough - 2 am is plenty!