



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Last Call for Leno's 4 a.m. Bar Bill**

### **Public Health & Safety Advocates Applaud Senate GO Committee for Voting 6-4 to Stop SB 635**

SACRAMENTO, CA (April 23, 2013) - Alcohol Justice, and the statewide Coalition to Stop Leno's 4 a.m. Bar Bill, applauded the Senate Governmental Organization (GO) Committee today for carefully considering and stopping SB 635. The bill would have created a dangerous public health and safety policy that would have allowed California bars, restaurants and nightclubs to extend alcohol sales from 2- 4 a.m.

*"A decisive majority of the committee agreed that law enforcement in California would see more drunk driving deaths and more alcohol-related homicides if Leno's bar bill passed,"* stated Jorge Castillo, Advocacy Director at Alcohol Justice. *"There was also acknowledgement that a 4 a.m. last call would result in inebriated drivers hitting the road during early morning commute hours."*

The bill, authored by Senator Mark Leno, a respected public health leader up to now, may get a reconsideration vote if the Committee Chair calls for a special session on April 30th. If not, the bill will most likely be brought back next January. Opponents who believe SB 635 is a misguided bill that will only benefit bar & restaurant owners while threatening health and safety throughout California are determined to put a final stop to the measure whenever and wherever it appears again.

*"The special interests of the restaurant associations and alcohol lobby suffered defeat today,"* said Richard Zaldivar, Executive Director of The Wall Las Memorias Project. *"They must know that we are ready and able to organize against this bill or any other in the future that values alcohol sales more than public health and safety."*

California suffers \$38.4 billion in alcohol-related harm every year, with 10,000 lives lost and hundreds of thousands of additional injuries. *"Perhaps if the bill contained a ten-cents per drink 'charge for harm' mitigation fee, it would stand a chance of passage,"* said Bruce Lee Livingston, Executive Director/CEO of Alcohol Justice.

#### **Here's how the CA Senate GO Committee voted:**

Six Senators said STOP to Senator Leno's bill: Berryhill (R-Modesto), Calderon (D-Montebello), Cannella (R-Merced), Correa (D-Santa Ana), Lieu (D-Redondo Beach), and Nielsen (R-Chico).

Those who voted yes to the restaurant and liquor industry-sponsored special interest measure were De León (D-Los Angeles), Hernandez (D-West Covina), Padilla (D-Van Nuys), and Committee Chair Wright (D-Inglewood).

Senator Galgiani (D-Stockton) did not vote.

**Statewide Opposition includes:**

Alcohol Justice  
Asian American Drug Abuse Program (AADAP)  
Ban Billboard Blight  
Bay Area Community Resources (BACR)  
County Alcohol & Drug Program Administrators Association of California (CADPAAC)  
California Council on Alcohol Problems (CALCAP)  
California Narcotic Officers Association  
California Police Chiefs Association  
City of Los Angeles  
City of Hermosa Beach  
County of Sacramento  
Friday Night Live  
Institute for Public Strategies  
Lutheran Office of Public Policy California  
Kern County Sheriff Donny Youngblood  
Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca  
Los Angeles City Council Member Bernard Parks  
Metro United Methodist Urban Ministry  
NoAlcoholAds.org  
P3 Partnership for a Positive Pomona  
Paso Por Paso, Inc.  
Phoenix House  
Pueblo Y Salud, Inc.  
People Reaching Out  
Prevention Institute  
Social Model Recovery Systems  
The Wall – Las Memorias Project  
WCTU  
Women Against Gun Violence  
Writers In Treatment  
Youth Leadership Institute (YLI)

[For More Information: STOP Leno's 4 a.m. Bar Bill](#)

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