



February 27, 2019

Senator Bill Dodd, Chair  
Senate Governmental Organization Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 584  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 58 (Wiener) Alcoholic beverages: hours of sale – OPPOSE**

Dear Chairman Dodd:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA) to oppose SB 58. CARA is California's largest grassroots senior advocacy organization, representing over 1,000,000 seniors and their families through our 275+ affiliated organizations.

SB 58 will not only strip away standard protections of a uniform, normal, 2 a.m. closing time in California, but it will do so as an ill-conceived, dangerous, seven-city, five-year experiment. This so-called "pilot" will turn most of California's population into unwitting lab animals. While the nine experimental cities include 17% of California's population, the "splash zone" of drinkers in the metropolitan districts in and around those potential late-night party zones includes a whopping 76% of the state's population.

CARA is deeply concerned about the policy implications and public health and safety costs to the state, county and local governments associated with extending hours of alcohol sales from 2 a.m. to 4 a.m. Our members do not agree with Senator Wiener's persistence in claiming on numerous occasions that there is no evidence that extending hours of service will produce more alcohol-related harm. His statement disregards 40+ years of peer-reviewed public health research which finds that two or more hours of increased alcohol sales *will* produce increases in alcohol consumption and related problems including violence, emergency room admissions, injuries, alcohol-impaired driving, and motor vehicle crashes.

Seniors care deeply about their communities and families that will be endangered by SB 58. California suffers more alcohol-related harm than any other state. Alcohol abuse causes 10,500 lives lost and \$34 billion annually. Please don't allow this dangerous nightlife experiment to produce more harm.

For these reasons, CARA urges a NO vote AB 58 when it comes before your Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hene Kelly".

Hene Kelly  
Legislative Director  
415-533-5244

c: Senator Scott Wiener