The Honorable Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher  
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee  
State Capitol, Room 2114  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 384 (Wiener) Alcoholic beverages: hours of sale. – OPPOSE

Dear Chair Gonzalez Fletcher:

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to you in respectful OPPOSITION to SB 384 (Wiener), which would allow on-sale licensees to sell, give, or purchase alcoholic beverages on licensed premises between the hours of 2 a.m. and 4 a.m.

Current law prohibits California alcohol licensed businesses from selling, serving, and allowing open containers of alcohol to remain in the public portion of the business from 2 a.m. to 6 a.m. SB 384 (Wiener) would allow the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to issue a non-transferable “additional hours permit” for an on-sale licensed premise within a city, county, or a city and county to extend allowable serving hours to 4 a.m.

This bill requires a local governing body to develop and adopt an ordinance regulating the increase in serving hours should that jurisdiction wish to extend alcohol sales to 4 a.m. Communities in close, but separate jurisdictions, are not offered protection from the harmful effects caused by extending the availability of alcohol in neighboring communities. Therefore, the City of Beverly Hills may have to manage the negative impacts of people driving under the influence should neighboring cities choose to extend their hours.
This bill does nothing to address the issues of expanding the City's law enforcement capacity to manage the impacts of inebriated individuals during the additional hours that businesses would be allowed to sell alcohol. Extending service hours would likely lead to an increase in drunk driving, with the real possibility of mixing late night drunk drivers and early morning commuters. This bill fails to address the significant negative impacts of making alcohol available for sale for longer hours.

For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills respectfully OPPOSES SB 384 (Wiener). Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lili Bosse
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Appropriations Committee
    The Honorable Scott Wiener, 11th Senate District
    The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
    The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
    Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc.