

CALCAP, ANEF & CCAGE

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 3 JULY 2009

TRUTH AND CONSEQUENCES



Dear Friends of CalCAP,

Just recently the District Attorney's Office of Sacramento reported there was a 60% increase in DUI cases filed against women between 2000 and 2008. This is triple the increase for male offenders, and the most dramatic change was among young women, including teenagers. In 1998, girls made up 16.8% of DUI arrests of those under 18. By 2007, that number was 24.3%. There are a number of reasons for this increase in alcohol consumption among young women, and especially teenage girls. According to Misty Dailey, a community service officer, a primary reason is

"Marketing." She said that "alcohol manufactures are increasingly targeting young women with cutesy packaging and fruit-flavored drinks that pack a big alcoholic punch."

We know these beverages as "alcopops" and have been telling the legislature the truth about these dangerous products, especially to teenage girls, for several years. We have been working to change their tax rate, the way that they are marketed, and where they can be sold. We have made progress, and we pray that our continued efforts will help reverse this drinking trend.

Rev James B. Butler,
Executive Director

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PROPOSITION 1C WAS DEFEATED, BUT IT HAS NOT GONE AWAY

On May 19, voters in California overwhelmingly defeated Proposition 1C 64.4% to 35.6%. Prop 1C would have restructured the Lottery, allowing the revenues to be used to secure more debt instead of supporting education, and allow larger prizes in order to increase lottery gambling. The California Coalition Against Gambling Expansion was one of the few state-wide organizations working to defeat this Proposition, and we enjoyed the victory.

However, our celebration is over, and we are again working to stop the intent of Prop 1C. Recently **SB 570** was introduced, and we are simply calling it "Prop 1C Lite." This bill will implement the very changes that were defeated by a vote of the people in May. It is clear that our battle to limit the expansion of the Lottery and California's reliance on gambling revenue is not over.

2009 ALCOHOL LEGISLATION

Some of the Legislation related to Alcohol that we are tracking and addressing this Session.

SB 639, Calderon: This bill will permit any store that sells alcohol to receive an “add on license” allowing them to give away free tasting samples of whatever they sell, beer, wine or hard liquor. Efforts of CalCAP, through Fred Jones our legislative advocate, played a critical role in having this bill postponed. However, we expect it to return in some amended form in 2010.

AB 1019, Beall: This bill would have required wholesalers located within the state who distribute alcoholic beverages to retailers for consumption in the state, to pay a \$0.10 per drink surcharge, based upon a specified formula, and would require the State Board of Equalization to administer and collect this surcharge. We were one of the sponsors of this bill, but it did not get out of the Health Committee. We then hoped that the 10 cent per drink fee would be incorporated into the budget to raise \$1.2 Billion in revenue, but that also was stopped.

2009 GAMBLING LEGISLATION

Some of the Legislation related to Gambling that we are tracking and addressing this Session.

SB 126, Cedillo: This bill will delete the reference to school districts in the provisions specifying the organizations that may conduct bingo games and would instead authorize charitable organizations affiliated with a school district to conduct bingo games. This bill is expected to pass. However, there are at least two legal challenges to electronic bingo games and several pending Regulations before the Gambling Control Commission, so this issue is not finished.

SB 200, Correa: This bill will delete the prohibition on advertising a raffle over the Internet and would set forth specified information regard-

AB 888, Price: This bill will prohibit, as an infraction, the possession of an alcoholic beverage container, or consumption of an alcoholic beverage, on a public street, alley, or sidewalk within 600 feet of the property line of a public or private school, with specified exceptions. CalCAP has been supporting this bill from the outset.

AB 1060, De La Torre: This bill will prohibit off-sale licensees from selling alcoholic beverages using a self-service checkout system. This bill makes findings and declarations regarding the effects of allowing alcoholic beverages to be sold using self-service checkouts. We are working with the Marin Institute and other groups supporting this bill.

AB 217, Beall:

This bill would establish the Medi-Cal Alcohol and Drug Screening and Brief Intervention Services Program, for the purpose of increasing the state's ability to make available alcohol and drug screening and brief intervention services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are pregnant women or women of childbearing age. This addresses Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder.

ing a raffle that may be included on an Internet Web site. CCAGE, through Fred Jones, our Legislative Advocate, single-handedly restricted the ability of consumers to purchase online "charitable" raffle tickets.

SB 213, Florez: Existing law prohibits the authorizing or expanding of any legal gambling beyond that permitted on January 1, 1996. Additionally, the commission is prohibited, until January 1, 2015, from issuing a gambling license for an establishment that was not licensed to operate on December 31, 1999, except as specified.

This bill will extend these provisions to January 1, 2020. However, there are still questions concerning the status of “Inactive” or “Expired” licenses.

A DEBATE BETWEEN TRUTH AND MYTH

A “debate” has begun in our state and country regarding the decriminalization or legalization of marijuana. Much of this discussion is fueled by myths and anecdotal stories that relate to the harmlessness of marijuana. In up-coming issues, and on the ANEF web page (www.anezca.org), we will be providing research from many sources to expose these myths and give facts about the dangerous consequences of marijuana use. Below is information excerpted from a publication of the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Marijuana is harmful in many ways, and children are the most vulnerable to its damaging effects. Short-term effects of marijuana use include memory loss, distorted perceptions, trouble with thinking and problem-solving, and anxiety. A National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) funded study at McLean Hospital in Belmont, Mass., is part of the growing body of research documenting cognitive impairment among heavy marijuana users.¹

Further, smoking marijuana leads to changes in the brain similar to those caused by cocaine, heroin, and alcohol.² Particularly for young people, marijuana use can lead to increased anxiety, panic attacks, depression, and other mental health problems. One study linked increased social withdrawal, anxiety, depression, attention problems, and thoughts of suicide in adolescents with past-year marijuana use.³ Other research shows that individuals between ages 12-17 who smoke marijuana weekly are three times more likely than non-users to have thoughts about committing suicide.⁴ Another recently published study showed that use of cannabis (marijuana) increased the risk of major depression fourfold, and finally, researchers in Sweden found a link between marijuana use and an increased risk of developing schizophrenia.⁵

The strength of marijuana (measured by the percentage of THC) has gone up from 1% in the mid 70s to more than 13% today, and some samples contain up to 33%.⁶ This is not the same drug of the 70s and 80s. This is a strong, powerful and dangerous drug, and the old stories no longer tell the true story. In the days, weeks and months ahead, this debate will continue, and the only way that we can prevail is to have the facts, and engage in this “debate.” It is a debate that the youth of our state and nation cannot afford for us to lose.

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 2. Rodriguez de Fonseca, F et al. Activation of corticotrophin-releasing factor in the limbic system during cannabinoid withdrawal. *Science* 276 (5321): 2050-2064, 1997
 3. Brook, JS et al. The effects of early marijuana use on later anxiety and depressive symptoms. *NYS Psychologist*. 35-39, 2001
 - Green, BE and Ritter, C, Marijuana use and depression. *Journal of Health and Social behavior*. 41 910; 40-49, 2000
 4. Greenblat, J. Adolescent self-reported behaviors and their association with marijuana use. Based on data from National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, 1994-1996 SAMHSA, 1998
 5. Bovasso, GB. Cannabis abuse as a risk factor for depressive symptoms. *American Journal of Psychiatry*. 158:2033-2037, 2001
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 6. Marijuana Potency Monitoring Project, report No. 83, University of Mississippi, 2003



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.CALCAP.ORG

WWW.ANEFCA.ORG

WWW.CCAGE.ORG

OUR TASK AND MISSION

The CalCAP family, which includes the California Council on Alcohol Problems (CalCAP), the Alcohol-Narcotic Education Foundation (ANEF) and the California Coalition Against Gambling Expansion (CCAGE), is a statewide, faith based organization that seeks to prevent the moral, economic, scientific and social problems caused by alcohol and gambling. This is done through research, education, advocacy and lobbying. Thus, we raise the awareness of these problems among the people, and address the legislature regarding alcohol and gambling issues.

We are funded entirely by gifts from denominations, churches, church groups and individuals. We do not receive any financial support from any governmental agency or political party.

If you would like to be part of our information network, arrange for a program or preaching date, or support our work through-out California, please contact our Executive Director, the Rev. James Butler, or our Sacramento office, at 916 / 441-1844 or calcap@sbcuc.net. Our Mailing address is 803 Vallejo Way, Sacramento CA 95818.

Because CalCAP is involved in lobbying efforts, donations to CalCAP are not tax-deductible. Donations to ANEF are tax-deductible.

SPECIAL CLERGY-TRAINING EVENT

The **Alcohol-Narcotic Education Foundation** will co-sponsor two exciting opportunities for clergy and congregational leaders to receive the latest information, resources and strategies on how to educate and provide hope to individuals and families suffering from the impact of abuse and addiction to alcohol and other drugs. The program, titled "Understanding Addiction and Supporting Recovery", will be presented by the Special Program on Substance Abuse and Related Violence (SPSARV) of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church (GBGM) and The National Association for Children of Alcoholics (NACoA).

The objectives of these workshops are: 1. Raise awareness of how addiction to alcohol and other drugs affects individuals and their families; 2. Discuss role of clergy and congregations in offering information, hope and recovery support for those affected by alcohol and drug abuse; 3. Review core competencies for clergy and congregational leaders in understanding and addressing alcohol and drug abuse.

The cost is only \$35, which will include continental breakfast, lunch and training manual.

Registration information: make checks payable to **SPSARV/GBGM** and mail to **SPSARV, 1914 JN Pease Place, Charlotte, NC 28262**. For more information contact Rev. James Butler @ (916) 420-8106 or the SPSARV office at 866-944-3330. You can also e-mail Rev. Cynthia Sloan Program Associate for SPSARV at csloan@gbgm-umc.org.

September 30, 8:30 - 3:30
**San Ramon Valley
United Methodist Church**
902 Danville Blvd., Alamo, CA 94507

October 13, 8:30 - 3:00
Anaheim United Methodist Church
1000 S. State College Blvd.
Anaheim, CA 92806