

CALCAP, ANEF & CCAGE

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IS IT REALLY ABOUT THE MONEY?

Dear Friends of CalCAP, ANEF and CCAGE,

We are all aware of the budgetary problems faced by our state. The latest numbers indicate that we have a \$26.2 Billion shortfall. For the last two months, this shortfall has been the pressing issue in Sacramento, and a number of ideas have been considered to balance our budget. You may have heard of some of them already. They include extending some taxes, raising some taxes and cutting some expenses. We do not know what will finally be decided.

Because of this shortfall, the promise of money has been one of the reasons offered for the legalization of internet gambling. In hearings, the supporters of placing a virtual poker parlor in every home, business, dorm room and smart phone, have promised \$1 Billion over ten years, and the Legislators seemed receptive. However, a mere increase of ten cents per alcoholic drink will raise more than \$1.2 Billion each year – ten times the amount of internet gambling, and will reduce our problems, not increase them. This idea is being met with stiff resistance.

If it is really about the money needed to balance our state budget, then why not support an increase in alcohol tax?

It appears that it is less about raising money for the state budget, and more about pleasing and protecting the alcohol and gambling industries, who have contributed to the campaigns of many of our representatives.

Rev. James B. Butler
Executive Director

WILL WE BAN ALCOHOLIC ENERGY DRINKS?

In November of 2010, the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) issued a warning stating that caffeine added to alcoholic beverages is an “unsafe food additive.” FDA Commissioner Margaret Hamburg said, “The combinations of caffeine and alcohol in the drinks is a public health concern and can lead to ‘a state of wide-awake drunk’. Evidence has shown their consumption has led to alcohol poisoning, car accidents and assaults.”

However, each state is responsible for dealing with these products as they determine. Four states have already banned these dangerous “alcohol-energy drinks”, and legislation has been introduced to ban them in California. SB 39, Padilla: will prohibit the import, production, manufacture, distribution, or sale of caffeinated beer beverages, as defined, at retail locations within the state. We are strong supporters of this bill.

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ALCOHOL LEGISLATION — 2011

There have been a number of pieces of Legislation related to Alcohol introduced in the current session of the Legislature. These are just some that we will be following and addressing. We are also hoping that a tax increase on alcohol will be part of the California budget.

AB 183, Ma: self-service checkouts. This bill would prohibit off-sale licensees from selling alcoholic beverages using a self-service checkout system. SUPPORT

AB 252, Calderon: licensees. This bill would additionally permit a distilled spirits manufacturer's agent to provide entertainment, food, and distilled spirits, wine, and nonalcoholic beverages at an event described. OPPOSE

AB 494, Logue: possession: Sacramento River. This bill would prohibit specified persons on certain portions of the Sacramento River from possessing a container, as defined, with an alcoholic beverage during the summer holiday periods that the Glenn and Butte County Boards of Supervisors prohibit the consumption of an alcoholic beverage or possession of an open alcoholic beverage. SUPPORT

AB 540, Beall: alcohol and drug screening and brief intervention services. This bill would establish the Medi-Cal Alcohol and Drug Screening and Brief Intervention Services Program, under which the department, in consultation with the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, would be required to provide reimbursement under the Medi-Cal program for alcohol and drug screening and brief intervention services provided to Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are pregnant women or women of childbearing age, as specified. SUPPORT



AB 775, Galgiani. Alcoholic beverages: advertising. This bill would expressly authorize a beer manufacturer, the holder of a winegrower's license, a California winegrower's agent, a distilled spirits rectifier, a distilled spirits manufacturer, and a distilled spirits manufacturer's agent to provide sponsorship funds, purchase advertising space or time, or furnish, give, lend, rent, or sell specified items to a live entertainment company that is affiliated with an off-sale licensee for live entertainment events in the Counties of San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, and Stanislaus. OPPOSE

AB 1356, Eng: duplicate licenses. This bill would require the department to deny the issuance of duplicate license to a winegrower or brandy manufacturer if issuance of that license would result in or add to an undue concentration of licenses,

except as provided. SUPPORT

SB 340, Wolk. Alcoholic beverages: places of consumption. This bill would expand the exception to also provide that the prohibition does not apply if the alcoholic beverages are acquired, possessed, or used during an event at a community center owned by a city and the event is not held at a time when students are attending a public school-sponsored activity at the center. OPPOSE

SB 346, Harman. Alcoholic Beverages: licensing. This bill would additionally allow the serving of alcoholic beverages without a license where the serving of alcoholic beverages is part of a gondola ride service, provided there is no extra charge or fee for the alcoholic beverages. OPPOSE

GAMBLING BILLS

Along with the bills listed below, there are several others that are related to satellite wagering by the Horse racing industry, and many “spot” bills. A spot bill is a bill that is introduced to “hold a spot” for a heretofore undefined piece of legislation. We will watch them all in the months ahead.

AB 241, Hall. Gambling: moratorium. Existing law prohibits, until January 1, 2015, a county, city, or city and county from authorizing or expanding any legal gaming beyond that permitted on January 1, 1996. This bill would extend these provisions to January 1, 2020. SUPPORT

AB 968, Chesbro. California Indian tribes: state agencies. This bill instead would require all state agencies to cooperate with federally recognized California Indian tribes on matters of economic development and improvement for the tribes. It would also require every state agency to adopt a policy of communication and consultation with, and require the Governor to meet at least annually with elected officials of, California Indian tribes, regardless of whether a tribe qualifies as a federally recognized California Indian tribe. OPPOSE

SB 40, Correa. Internet poker. This bill would establish a framework to authorize intrastate Internet poker, as specified. OPPOSE

SB 45, Wright. Internet gambling. This bill would establish a framework to authorize intrastate Internet gambling, as specified. OPPOSE

MARIJUANA BILLS

Because Medical Marijuana is legal in California, there are several pieces of legislation addressing that issue. We will be following those listed below as well as others.

SB 129, Leno. Medical marijuana. This bill, notwithstanding existing law, would declare it unlawful for an employer to discriminate against a person in hiring, termination, or any term or condition of employment or otherwise penalize a person, if the discrimination is based upon the person's status as a qualified patient or a positive drug test for marijuana, except as specified. OPPOSE

SB 626, Calderon. Cannabis and cannabis product: certificate: taxation. This bill would create the Cannabis Certification and Regulation Act of 2011 and provide for the certification by the State Board of Equalization of growers, wholesalers, retailers, and transporters of cannabis or cannabis products that are engaged in business in California, and provide for taxation. It would prohibit growers, wholesalers, retailers, and transporters from selling or purchasing cannabis or cannabis products without a certificate. SUPPORT

SB 847, Correa. Medical Cannabis Licensing Act. This bill would establish the Medical Cannabis Licensing Act, to require a producer, distributor, or seller to be licensed by the State Department of Public Health to engage in the production, distribution, or sale of medical marijuana, and would require the license to be renewed every 12 months. SUPPORT

CONTACTING SACRAMENTO

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Senate and Assembly

To reach your State Senator or Assembly Member, you will need to call their office directly. If you need to find the name of your Senator or Assembly member and their contact information, you can use our web site — www.calcap.org



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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
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OUR TASK AND MISSION

The CalCAP family, which includes the California Council on Alcohol Problems (CalCAP), the Alcohol-Narcotic Education Foundation of California (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@calcap.org. 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.

TIME TO END HEAVY DRINKING ON CAMPUSES

Nation-wide, more than eighteen hundred deaths, 600,000 injuries and 97,000 victims of sexual assault are attributed to heavy drinking among college students. These numbers need to come down, and the results of a new study show that it is possible to reduce the injuries and deaths attributed to heavy drinking on our college campuses.

The study included eight of the University of California's campuses, as well as six campuses within the California State University system. Half of the schools were assigned to the "Safer California Universities" intervention program.

The study showed that "Safer" intervention universities had a large reduction in the probability of intoxication at off-campus parties. It also showed that "Safer" universities students were less likely to drink to intoxication during the last time they were at any of the targeted settings. Stronger interventions were also achieved at "Safer" universities.

"These findings should give college administrators some degree of optimism that student drinking is amenable to a combination of well-chosen, evidence-based universal prevention strategies," commented lead investigator Robert F. Saltz, PhD, Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE), Berkeley, CA. "Here, one set of alcohol control strategies was found to be efficacious, but other combinations may work as well, or even better. With a growing body of such evidence, and combined with strategies already shown to be effective, it will be possible to craft a comprehensive prevention program that ratchets down the harm currently produced by alcohol use on and near college campuses."

It is time for all of our college campuses to take the problems associated with heavy drinking seriously, and implement effective preventative programs.

More on this in a future Newsletter!