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April 4, 2025

RE: AB 342 - Alcoholic beverages: hours of sale (Oppose)

Dear CDPH:

The California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO), which represents the appointed physician health officers of California's 61 city and county jurisdictions, would like to express our recommendation to **oppose AB 342**. On April 4, 2025, the CCLHO Board of Directors voted to approve the oppose recommendation.

Existing law makes it a misdemeanor for any on- or off-sale licensee, or agent or employee of the licensee, to sell, give, or deliver to any person any alcoholic beverage between the hours of 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. of the same day, and for any person who knowingly purchases any alcoholic beverages between those hours. This bill would allow on-sale licensees to sell alcohol until 4 am on Fridays, Saturdays, and specified holidays. To obtain this extended-hours license, licensees must meet certain criteria, including local government approval through an ordinance that meets certain requirements. Among those requirements are that the ordinance identify the additional serving hours area in which an on-sale licensed premises would be eligible for an additional serving hours license, include assessments of the impact of an additional serving hours area, and show that the local law enforcement budget will be increased by at least 5% to mitigate public safety impacts.

CCLHO's oppose position is rooted in the understanding that having additional alcohol serving hours would increase alcohol consumption, that persons who consume alcohol between 2 and 4 am may not consume alcohol responsibly, and that alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes may increase. CCLHO has historically opposed similar legislation extending the hours of alcohol sales.

CCLHO was established in statute in 1947 to advise CDPH, other departments, boards, commissions, and officials of federal, state and local agencies, the Legislature, and other organizations on all matters affecting health.

Sincerely,

Aimee Sisson, MD, MPH
President