

NEWS

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER
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Councilmember Koretz Introduces Resolution to Oppose “4AM Bar Bill” CA (SB 58) Would Extend Alcohol Sales in Bars and Nightclubs

Los Angeles, CA – March 5, 2019 – Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz introduced a resolution in opposition of California’s SB 58 (Wiener), also known as the “4AM bar bill.” The bill proposes to allow the cities of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, Sacramento, Long Beach, West Hollywood, Coachella, Cathedral City, and Palm Springs to issue permits allowing bars, restaurants, and nightclubs to extend cut off times for alcohol sales to 4:00 a.m.

There have been two earlier versions of Senator Wiener’s “4 AM bar bill” that Councilmember Koretz also opposed. The first version, SB 384 was dismantled after a long list of opponents, including the California Highway Patrol, argued that the extended serving hours would only push the problems with alcohol consumption further into the predawn hours. A subsequent version, SB 905, passed through the California legislature and was vetoed by Governor Brown whose veto message concluded, “we have enough mischief from midnight to two without adding mayhem.”

Councilmember Koretz’s position against the various iterations of the proposal has rested squarely on public safety concerns. Koretz’s resolution anticipates that passage of SB 58 will sharply compound alcohol-related accidents and deaths; impose more burden on law enforcement, and exacerbate drinking establishments’ negative impacts on neighborhoods.

“While we want our local businesses to thrive,” said Councilmember Koretz, “no good can come from serving alcohol until 4 a.m. If this passes we can expect more DUIs, more drunk driving injuries and more alcohol-related deaths both inside the permitted jurisdictions and their neighboring communities.”

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