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& AUTO SAFETY



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DISTILLED SPIRITS COUNCIL
OF THE UNITED STATES



April 22, 2025

Honorable Nick Schultz, Chair
Assembly Public Safety Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 5150
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Assembly Bill 366 – Save Lives with Every Start

Dear Chair Schultz and Members of the Assembly Public Safety Committee,

On behalf of the Coalition for Safe California Roads—a broad alliance of public safety organizations, survivors and families of impaired driving crashes, traffic safety experts, district attorneys, and public health advocates—we write in **strong** support of Assembly Bill 366 (Petrie-Norris), which will address California's drunk driving crisis by protecting and expanding California's ignition interlock device (IID) program to prevent impaired driving and save lives.

California is amid an alarming drunk driving crisis. **Since 2019, alcohol-related traffic fatalities have increased by 53%**—far outpacing the national average of 33%. These numbers are not just statistics. They represent lives lost and families shattered.

A Lending Tree study shows that **8 of the top 10 U.S. cities with the highest DUI rates are in California**. Meanwhile, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports the average impaired driver operates a vehicle while intoxicated more than 80 times before their first arrest.

According to a study by the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA), 75% of drivers continue to drive on a suspended or revoked license, underscoring license suspension alone is not effective.

In 2023 alone, ignition interlock devices prevented over 30,500 vehicles from being driven by impaired drivers in California – that's one prevented impaired driving vehicle start every 17 minutes. These lifesaving devices allow people to continue fulfilling their obligations such as driving to work, school, and family responsibilities—safely and responsibly—while reducing recidivism and protecting the public. [Studies](#) show that ignition interlocks reduce recidivism—[by up to 70%](#)— among all offenders while they are installed.

California's current IID program is set to expire at the end of 2025. If the Legislature fails to act, California will become the **ONLY** state in the nation without an IID requirement, reversing decades of progress in protecting our roadways. AB 366 will prevent this by requiring IIDs for all DUI offenders, as 34 other states and the District of Columbia already have an all-offender IID requirement with demonstrated success on the impact of this proven prevention technology. Per the CDC, states with laws requiring an IID for all offenders were associated with 26% fewer alcohol-impaired fatal crashes.

Beyond the public safety protection benefits, AB 366 is also fiscally responsible. Drunk driving costs California an estimated \$17 billion annually in emergency response, law enforcement, medical expenses, and legal proceedings.

In addition, California has already lost more than \$18.7 million in federal 405(d) grant funding from (NHTSA) for lack of an all-offender IID law. These are significant funds California is willingly leaving on the table when the state is already facing a \$30B budget shortfall.

AB 366 is backed by our strong and diverse coalition as well as jointly authored by Assemblymember Rhodesia Ransom and co-authored by Senator Bob Archuleta and Assemblymembers Juan Alanis, Rebecca Bauer-Kahan, Heath Flora, James Gallagher, Mark Gonzalez, Maggie Krell, Tom Lackey, Stephanie Nguyen, Blanca Pacheco, Sharon Quirk-Silva, Chris Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Pilar Schiavo, Esmeralda Soria, Catherine Stefani, and Greg Wallis.

We **strongly urge** the Assembly Public Safety Committee to support AB 366. California must not turn back the clock on one of our most effective, preventative tools to combat impaired driving and recidivism. Lives are at stake, and your leadership can make a difference.

Thank you for your continued commitment to public safety and the well-being of all Californians on our roadways.

Sincerely,

The Coalition for Safe California Roads

AAA Northern California, Nevada & Utah–Mahmoud Zahriya, Government & Public Affairs Lead
AAA Southern CA

Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety

Amador County District Attorney–Todd Riebe, District Attorney

American College of Surgeons, Southern California, Northern, and San Diego Chapters

California Association of Highway Patrolmen–Jake Johnson, President

California Professional Firefighters

Distilled Spirits Council of the United States

Kids and Car Safety–Amber Rollins-Reis, Director

Mothers Against Drunk Driving–Patricia Rillera, Executive Director

National Alliance to Stop Impaired Driving

National Safety Council

PORAC

Recording Artists Against Drunk Driving–Erin Dugan Meluso, President

Responsibility.org

Sacramento County District Attorney–Thien Ho, District Attorney

SAFE | Safety and Advocacy For Empowerment

Shasta County District Attorney–Stephanie A. Bridgett

Students Against Destructive Decisions–Scott Myers, Executive Director

Yolo County District Attorney–Jeff Reisig, District Attorney

**Partial coalition list*