



Mothers Against Drunk Driving
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August 29, 2016

The Honorable Jerry Brown
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) supports SB 1046 and asks you to sign this legislation into law. This bill would improve California's drunk driving law by providing incentives for first-time drunk drivers to use an ignition interlock and requiring the in-car breathalyzers for repeat offenders.

According to a June 2016 California DMV study on the effectiveness of California's four-county interlock pilot program, ignition interlocks are 74 percent more effective in reducing DUI recidivism among first offenders than license suspension alone. The California DMV study confirmed what the traffic safety community already knows — license suspension alone for drunk drivers is merely a hope for the best approach to stopping drunk drivers.

Currently, judges already have the discretion to order ignition interlocks for convicted drunk drivers. As a result of AB 91 in 2009, the four-county pilot program began requiring ignition interlocks for all convicted drunk drivers in Alameda, Los Angeles, Sacramento and Tulare counties on July 1, 2010. Since then, these devices have stopped more than 140,000 drunk driving attempts and foiled 1.1 million drinking and driving attempts.

MADD worked with SB 1046 author Senator Jerry Hill and representatives of your administration to incorporate recommended changes that would hopefully lead to you signing into law this important legislation. The original version of SB 1046 that was unanimously passed by the Senate and three Assembly Committees would have required all drunk drivers to use an ignition interlock device. The original bill was similar to laws passed in 28 other states plus Washington, DC.

In a compromise with your representatives, SB 1046 was amended to incentivize, not mandate, the use of ignition interlocks for first-time drunk drivers. The version of SB 1046 on your desk expands California's ignition interlock law, effective January 1, 2019, to allow all first-time drunk driving offenders the choice between using an ignition interlock for six months or receiving a one-year license suspension with the possibility of route-restricted driving privileges after 30 days.

MADD respectfully asks you to sign SB 1046 into law. This legislation is a positive step toward addressing California's drunk driving problem, which claims the lives of nearly 900 people every year. MADD looks forward to working with the Legislature and your administration in the coming years to determine the effectiveness of this law and make improvements to ensure all Californians are protected from this completely preventable crime. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact MADD with any questions.

Sincerely,

Mary F. Klotzbach MSN, RN, CCM
MADD National Board Member