



**SAN
FRANCISCO
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

June 20, 2016

The Honorable Adam Grey
Chair, California Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization
State Capitol
P.O. Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0021

RE: Support: SB 1285 (Leno)

Dear Assemblymember Grey:

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, representing over 2,500 local businesses, supports Senator Mark Leno's SB 1285 which encourages investment in San Francisco's most challenged neighborhood-serving commercial corridors that typically struggle to survive.

Restaurants can be a catalyst for economic development in neighborhoods, drawing visitors, foot traffic and shoppers. They provide jobs, including for those with little or no training and experience, that can lead to higher paying careers.

In San Francisco, restaurants struggle to survive, especially in neighborhoods that are off the beaten track. San Francisco is a very expensive city to open a restaurant and keep it afloat, even in areas where visitor numbers are high. Offering liquor encourages diners to stay in a restaurant longer, but liquor licenses are cost prohibitive to smaller restaurants, particularly those located in less trafficked locations. Senator Leno's legislation will spur investment in underserved neighborhoods, helping those commercial corridors to thrive.

The San Francisco Chamber thanks Senator Leno for his leadership on this matter, and we support SB 1285.

Sincerely,

Jim Lazarus
Senior Vice President of Public Policy