

Capitol Advocacy

Capitol Advocacy provides advocacy services for CAVC in Sacramento. Listed below is a recap of the issues that they have worked with CAVC on in the past as well as an insight into issues to come.

Soda Tax

For the last two years, Capitol Advocacy has lobbied on behalf of CAVC against proposals to increase taxes on soda to fund health care programs in California. These efforts have so far been successful however continued vigilance and strong lobbying efforts are required to ensure a tax is not enacted.

Beverage Container Recycling Fund

For the last two years, Capitol Advocacy has lobbied on behalf of CAVC in opposition to proposals to increase the CRV (CA Redemption Value) to cover deficits in the Recycling Fund. Capitol Advocacy expressed CAVC members' frustration that an increase in the CRV would adversely impact their operations and could force them to increase their prices to cover the additional fee.

Overtime Rules

Capitol Advocacy has lobbied in support of efforts in the Legislature to modify the state's overtime rules to allow for flexible lunch breaks for employees. These efforts will continue until the Legislature recognizes the crucial need to allow certain employees especially those that handle delivery of products in the vending industry to have flexibility of their lunch hours.

Retail Food Code

Capitol Advocacy worked with CAVC members in an attempt to clarify the retail food code to more appropriately define a vending warehouse. After countless hours of meetings, memos and discussions modification of the current code was found to be too problematic to change. However, the positive relationships with other retail organizations and the regulators themselves has been productive and will be of great benefit to CAVC in the future.

Snack Tax

Capitol Advocacy has provided lobbying services for CAVC on sponsored bills and educational efforts to modify the current sales tax for vending products. Unfortunately, because the state has experienced budget deficits for the last 5 years, efforts to repeal the partial sales tax on snacks sold in vending machines has not been successful. However, lobbying efforts have had a positive impact on educating members of the Legislature about the unfair tax and have provide CAVC with

opportunities to educate members about the industry and its unique contribution to the state.

Grassroots Lobbying Efforts

Capitol Advocacy has assisted CAVC in its outreach to legislators in their districts and at the capitol to educate members about the industry, the snack tax and concerns related to the soda tax and CRV increases. These lobby days have been successful and have benefitted the Association greatly.

Workers Compensation & Health Care Reform

Capitol Advocacy has been a resource to CAVC members regarding developments in workers compensation and reform efforts in work comp and health care reform. Capitol Advocacy provided input to policy makers during workers comp reform on behalf of CAVC and has expressed concerns to legislators during attempts to reform health care at the state level.

2011 is surely going to be a challenging and busy year for CAVC and its advocacy efforts in California. There will be attempts by labor to unravel the benefits of workers comp reform, employer protections and business interests. In addition, the state is experiencing a huge budget deficit with little options. This puts added risk on increased taxes for vending products and vending companies.