

Today's latest outreach from Wiener:

This week you may have seen over the top and insulting TV ads and mailers attacking me and also attacking our legislation to help alleviate California's housing crisis, Senate Bill 50, the More HOMES Act. These television ads and mailers appropriate the voice of James Baldwin to offensively and outlandishly claim that SB 50 will lead to the displacement of working class communities, particularly our Black community - despite SB 50 containing some of the strongest anti-displacement provisions in existence.

While I can say I am disgusted by this slanderous attack, I cannot say I am surprised.

These ads are paid for by a Los Angeles-based group called "AIDS Healthcare Foundation" (AHF). AHF is a pariah among HIV advocates - universally despised for its anti-science views and bully behavior. For example, AHF opposes PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis), a daily pill that almost entirely eliminates risk of contracting HIV. AHF has engaged in a long campaign to delegitimize this HIV prevention tool, which is broadly and deeply supported in the HIV advocacy community and recommended by the CDC and World Health Organization. AHF spends significant money - money that should go to HIV-related healthcare and prevention services - [to persuade people at risk of contracting HIV to not take PrEP](#). AHF even [opposed legislation](#) to require people who receive an HIV-negative test to also receive information about PrEP and opposes my current legislation to allow pharmacists to provide PrEP.

AHF presents itself as a community-based nonprofit with "AIDS" and "Foundation" in its name, but in reality, it is a chain pharmacy and insurance company, labeled "nonprofit" but with a budget in excess of \$1 billion. It is run by a man named Michael Weinstein, a mean bully obsessed with using HIV healthcare funds to engage in politics, settle political scores, and increasingly, oppose new housing in California and fund anti-housing NIMBY organizations. AHF and Weinstein are now effectively California's NIMBY-In-Chief.

Pictured: Michael Weinstein

AHF/Weinstein's beef with me started when, as a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, [I stopped AHF from cheating San Francisco's chain store rules](#) to open a chain pharmacy in the Castro without the proper permit. No one wanted AHF's chain pharmacy in the Castro - particularly our local HIV advocates - and I put a stop to AHF's improper behavior. In response - and in his typical bully way - Weinstein [sued me](#), defamed me, and spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in my senate race to send out [homophobic mailers](#) attacking me. Since I took office as a Senator, AHF/Weinstein have

continued to come after me, even using an investigator to try to dig up dirt on me and then putting out a defamatory “investigative report” about me.

It’s not surprising that AHF and Weinstein continue to spend HIV healthcare funds to attack me, since they’ve done it before. Ten years ago, they engaged in a nasty campaign against our very own Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, protesting at her house and falsely claiming she wasn’t supportive of HIV funding, despite the fact that she has always been one of the leading national champions for people living with HIV.

AHF’s disgraceful behavior goes [beyond their attacks on PrEP](#) and Nancy Pelosi, and includes claims that it over-billed Los Angeles County by millions of dollars, claims that it helped defund a youth organization in Los Angeles which focused on serving African-American, Latino, and transgender youth affected by HIV, getting sued on multiple occasions based on allegations that they [defrauded government programs](#), and being the subject an [IRS complaint filed against them](#) for over-spending HIV funds on political campaigns.

Now, AHF and Michael Weinstein have decided to venture into housing by using HIV healthcare funds to stop housing in California. AHF and Weinstein spent millions writing and campaigning for a widely condemned Los Angeles ballot measure, Measure S, to [stop housing production](#). A broad coalition of labor, affordable housing, and business groups opposed Measure S, and it failed. AHF and Weinstein have also sued to stop the construction of housing that would have blocked Weinstein’s office view. AHF and Weinstein also provide support to NIMBY anti-housing groups such as the Coalition to Preserve LA and Livable California.

Now, they are once again using funds meant to provide HIV healthcare to attack SB 50, legislation I’m authoring that, according to the San Francisco Planning Department, “is likely to result in significantly greater housing production across all density controlled districts, and thus would also [produce more affordable housing](#) through the on-site inclusionary requirement.” SB 50 will also help to [create more affordable housing in segregated neighborhoods](#) that have historically had little or no affordable housing. And SB 50 will help reduce vehicle miles traveled so as to make our air cleaner and help us reach our environmental goals. [Communities of color feel the negative impacts of air pollution from cars the most.](#)

SB 50 has a huge support coalition, including San Francisco Mayor London Breed, Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf, Stockton Mayor Michael Tubbs, the Nonprofit Housing Association of Northern California, the California Labor Federation, the State Building and Construction Trades Council, the California League of Conservation Voters, AARP California, Habitat for Humanity, the UC Student Association, the Natural Resources Defense Council, CALPIRG, Environment California, the California Renters Legal Advocacy and Education Fund (CaRLA), and a host of other renter, business, and labor organizations.

I'll take Habitat for Humanity, AARP, the California Labor Federation, and the UC Student Association over Michael Weinstein and AHF any day of the week.

Michael Weinstein and his immoral and unethical operation have no credibility around HIV healthcare or housing policy.

I will continue to fight for more housing and to reform California's housing status quo that is harming millions of people. I will also continue to advocate for people living with HIV and to ensure those who are negative can stay negative.

I hope you will share this information with others. AHF and Michael Weinstein will continue to attack me and spread misinformation about SB 50. We need to set the record straight.

Sincerely,

Scott Wiener
Senator