



## CITY OF MURRIETA

August 1, 2023

The Honorable Richard Roth  
California State Senate  
1021 O Street, Suite 7510  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB Senate Bill 46 (Roth): Controlled Substances: Treatment  
City of Murrieta – Notice of Support**

Dear Senator Roth:

On behalf of the City of Murrieta, I would like to express our support for Senate Bill 46. SB 46 would require the County drug program administrator and representatives of the court, with the county probation department and substance use treatment providers' input, to design and implement an approval and renewal process for controlled substance education or treatment.

According to provisional data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), deaths involving opioids increased from an estimated 70,029 in 2020 to 80,816 in 2021. Overdose deaths from synthetic opioids (primarily fentanyl), psychostimulants such as methamphetamine, and cocaine, also continued to increase in 2021 compared to 2020. In 2021, California had nearly 6,000 opioid-related overdose deaths, according to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). The overdose crisis has been and remains a long-term and evolving problem, SB 46 aims to implement strategies to reduce overdoses.

SB 46 allows the court to order the defendant to complete a controlled substance education or treatment program, if available and as appropriate for the individual. SB 46 also requires the court to determine the defendant's ability to pay for the program and would authorize the court to develop a sliding fee schedule based on the person's inability to pay, including making a person who is granted specified relief from court fees and costs not responsible for any costs.

Allowing controlled substance education programs to be made available with cost-effective measures means individuals can get the treatment they need to help end the opioid crisis. For these reasons, the City of Murrieta supports SB 46.

Sincerely,

Lisa DeForest

Mayor