



CITY OF MURRIETA

June 26, 2023

The Honorable Kelly Seyarto
Senator, 32nd District
1021 O Street, Suite 7120
Sacramento, CA 94249

Re: SB 19 (Seyarto) – California Fentanyl Abuse Task Force - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Seyarto:

On behalf of the City of Murrieta, I write in support for Senate Bill (SB) 19. This bill would establish the Anti-Fentanyl Abuse Task Force to collect and organize data on the nature and extent of fentanyl abuse in California and evaluate best practices in combatting fentanyl abuse.

A recent study by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) names fentanyl the deadliest drug in America. Reports describe fentanyl being disguised as other synthetic opioids or drugs, then sold on the street to users who are unaware that fentanyl is a key ingredient. Users who unknowingly ingest these substances, believing they are taking a less powerful drug, are much more susceptible to overdose or even death. Furthermore, there are disturbing reports of fentanyl being marketed to unsuspecting children which has resulted in a series of poisonings and overdose deaths in teenagers.

In California, fentanyl-related deaths have increased nearly 2000% from 230 in 2016 to nearly 5,800 in 2021. In the same year, fentanyl overdose became recognized as the leading cause of death of Americans aged 18 to 45. SB 19 would assist with understanding the extent of the fentanyl abuse in California, while helping to evaluate approaches to increase public awareness and analyze existing state criminal statutes for their adequacy in addressing the problem.

For these reasons, (Organization Name) supports SB 19. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact (Contact name, title, and Number here).

Sincerely,

Lisa DeForest
Mayor