



## CITY OF LAGUNA NIGUEL

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## CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Kelly Jennings  
Council Member Ray Gennawey  
Council Member Stephanie Oddo  
Council Member Sandy Rains

April 18, 2023

The Honorable Reginald Jones-Sawyer  
Chair, Assembly Public Safety Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 111  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT: AB 701 (Villapudua) Controlled Substance: Fentanyl.**

Dear Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer,

The City of Laguna Niguel is pleased to support Assembly Bill 701: Controlled Substances: Fentanyl. This measure would add fentanyl to the list of enumerated controlled substances that are eligible for sentence enhancements when a defendant is found with a large quantity in their possession.

A recent study by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) names fentanyl the deadliest drug in the United States. Fentanyl is often 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. When abused, fentanyl affects the brain and nervous system and is 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine.

The City of Laguna Niguel supports additional funding and resources to address the substance use crisis through appropriate prevention and intervention efforts and educational awareness campaigns. Fentanyl-related deaths have increased over 1000% in Orange County over the last five years and is the number one cause of death of individuals in Orange County under the age of seventeen.

For these reasons, the City of Laguna Niguel is in strong support of Assembly Bill 701 and encourages members of the Assembly Public Safety Committee to vote in support of AB 701 when the bill is heard for reconsideration.

Should you have any questions about our position, please contact Kevin O'Connor, Management Assistant, at [koconnor@cityoflagunaniguel.org](mailto:koconnor@cityoflagunaniguel.org).

Sincerely,

Kelly Jennings  
Mayor