



CITY OF LAGUNA NIGUEL

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CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Sandy Rains
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Council Member Kelly Jennings
Council Member Stephanie Oddo

February 13, 2023

The Honorable Thomas J. Umberg
1021 O Street, Room 6530
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for SB 44 (Umberg)

Dear Senator Umberg:

On behalf of the City of Laguna Niguel I am writing in support of your bill, Senate Bill 44, also known as Alexandra's Law, which will establish the California Fentanyl Admonishment – an important tool to help law enforcement in the prosecution of fentanyl trafficking and related deaths.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid 100 times more potent than morphine. It can be found in methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, and vaping products, as well as counterfeit pharmaceutical pills such as Xanax, Percocet, hydrocodone or Oxycodone among others.

Statistics show the opioid crisis has significantly worsened since fentanyl entered the illicit drug market. Specifically, fentanyl was the number one cause of death last year for people ages 18-45, outpacing suicides, automobile accidents, and COVID-19. Fentanyl causes a fatality approximately every 7-8 minutes, and is linked to 64% of total drug fatalities in 2021.

In California, Driving Under the Influence (DUI) offenders are read an advisory in court to inform them that repeated offenses resulting in death can be charged as manslaughter or murder. SB 44 models this platform by establishing a statewide Fentanyl Admonishment to be issued to fentanyl dealers and traffickers who actions result in death.

The City of Laguna Niguel is proud to support SB 44 (Umberg/Ochoa Bogh), Alexandra's Law, in an effort to provide justice to thousands of California families and deter those who deal deadly drugs from continuing to do so. We know this law will add an important tool for counties and agencies grappling with our opioid epidemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandy Rains".

Sandy Rains
Mayor