



CITY OF LAGUNA NIGUEL

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CITY COUNCIL

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May 9, 2023

The Honorable Anthony Rendon
California State Assembly, 62nd District
1021 O Street, Suite 8330
Sacramento, CA 94249

SUBJECT: Support of Fentanyl and Substance Use-Related Legislation

Dear Assembly Speaker Rendon,

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. Laguna Niguel continues to serve as a leader in Orange County, educating residents on the "One Pill Can Kill" campaign and hosting community forums to discuss this salient issue.

In 2021, 1,348 people in Orange County died of a drug or alcohol-related cause, with opioid-related deaths accounting for 746 (55%) of those deaths. Fentanyl has become the most frequent type of opioid involved in overdose deaths. In 2021, fentanyl was the number one cause of death for people ages 18-45, outpacing suicides and COVID-19.

According to the California Department of Public Health, statewide fentanyl-related deaths increased from 239 in 2016 to 5,722 in 2021 – a nearly 2,300 percent increase over the last five years. In that same period, Orange County fentanyl-related deaths increased by over 1800%, from 37 to 716. The largest age group for overdose deaths in Orange County is 25–44-year olds, followed by 45–64-year olds.

The Orange County Sheriff's Department seized 104.6 pounds of fentanyl and 16,278 pills in 2021. In 2022, 449.9 pounds of fentanyl were seized, along with 405,283 pills. The prevalence of fentanyl across Orange County continues to grow, and we need common sense legislation to help law enforcement tackle this crisis.

The City of Laguna Niguel is committed to finding solutions to address the growing substance use crisis across the state and supports the following measures:

AB 33 (Bains) Fentanyl Addiction and Overdose Prevention Task Force

AB 462 (Ramos) Overdose Response Team

AB 474 (Rodriguez) State Threat Assessment Center: Transnational Criminal Organizations

AB 675 (Soria) Controlled Substances

AB 701 (Villapudua) Controlled Substances: Fentanyl

AB 1362 (Davies) Pupil Instruction: Adopted Course of Study: Physical Education

SB 19 (Seyarto) Anti-Fentanyl Abuse Task Force

SB 226 (Ramos) Controlled Substance: Armed Possession: Fentanyl

Now, more than ever, is the time to take action on measures that will preserve human life and improve the safety and well-being of all Californians. The City of Laguna Niguel calls on the Legislature and the Governor's Office to act on these proposed bills that put forward comprehensive solutions to addressing the substance use crisis.

For these reasons, the City of Laguna Niguel supports these measures related to fentanyl, substance use, and public health and safety. We recognize that action needs to be taken across all levels of government to protect the well-being of all Californians.

Sincerely,


Kelly Jennings
Mayor