



September 6, 2023

SENATE FLOOR ALERT

**AB 701 (Villapudua) – Controlled substances: fentanyl
As Amended September 1, 2023**

SUPPORT

The League of California Cities (Cal Cities) is pleased to **support** AB 701 (Villapudua). 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.

Cal Cities supports additional funding and resources to address the substance use crisis through appropriate prevention and intervention efforts, educational awareness campaigns, and increased access to life-saving overdose treatment aids such as naloxone.

For these reasons, Cal Cities supports this bill and urges an AYE vote on AB 701.