



RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES  
OF CALIFORNIA

April 3, 2024

The Honorable Mia Bonta  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Health  
1020 N Street, Room 390  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2871 (Maienschein) – SUPPORT  
As Introduced February 15, 2024**

Dear Assembly Member Bonta,

On behalf of Rural County Representatives of California, we support AB 2871, authored by Assemblymember Maienschein. This measure would allow California counties to create Overdose Fatality Review Teams to engage in system-wide team review when there is a drug fatality and to promote information sharing between county agencies as well as local stakeholders and experts. RCRC is an association of forty rural California counties and the RCRC Board of Directors is comprised of elected supervisors from each of those member counties.

California's drug fatality crisis is well-documented. The most recent available data indicates that over 11,000 Californians died from drug overdoses in 2022, more than double the number from 2018. Two-thirds of those deaths are from opioids and 60 percent are from fentanyl alone.

Addressing California's drug fatality crisis will require a system-wide effort from local health, social service, and public safety agencies, nonprofits, community groups, and others who have expertise or work with people who are most at risk. While overdose fatality reviews can currently be conducted to a limited degree, the ability to share information about individuals, much of which is confidential by law, is limited.

Other death review teams for children, domestic violence, and elder abuse have yielded tremendous results with opportunities for improvement identified and acted on at both the system-wide and individual levels. Being able to implement drug fatality review teams would allow counties to maximize insights on how they can address the drug and opioid crisis locally.

1215 K Street, Suite 1650, Sacramento, CA 95814 | [www.rcrcnet.org](http://www.rcrcnet.org) | 916.447.4806 | Fax: 916.448.3154

---

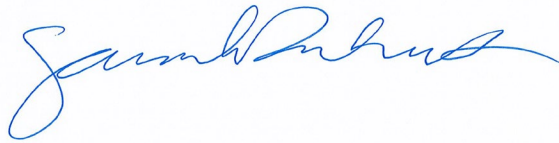
ALPINE · AMADOR · BUTTE · CALAVERAS · COLUSA · DEL NORTE · EL DORADO · GLENN · HUMBOLDT · IMPERIAL · INYO · KINGS · LAKE · LASSEN  
MADERA · MARIPOSA · MENDOCINO · MERCED · MODOC · MONO · MONTEREY · NAPA · NEVADA · PLACER · PLUMAS · SAN BENITO · SAN LUIS OBISPO  
SANTA BARBARA · SHASTA · SIERRA · SISKIYOU · SOLANO · SONOMA · SUTTER · TEHAMA · TRINITY · TULARE · TUOLUMNE · YOLO · YUBA

The Honorable Mia Bonta  
Assembly Bill 2871  
April 3, 2024  
Page 2

AB 2871 would provide the specific statutory authorization needed to create Overdose Fatality Review Teams. It would detail and protect processes and allow for greater sharing of confidential medical and other information needed to further identify issues and gaps in addressing the overdose fatality crisis. Finally, AB 2871 would require all confidential information shared among members of the review team to remain confidential.

If signed into law, AB 2871 would unlock the ability for counties and other agencies to better work together to prevent and address future occurrences, as well as to improve coordination and effectiveness of interventions. For these reasons RCRC is pleased to support AB 2871. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 447-4806 or [sdukett@rcrcnet.org](mailto:sdukett@rcrcnet.org).

Sincerely,



SARAH DUKETT  
Policy Advocate

cc: The Honorable Brian Maienschein, Member of the California State Assembly  
Members of the Assembly Health Committee  
Riana King, Consultant, Assembly Health Committee  
Justin Bowman, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus