



September 8, 2023

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**SB 19 (Seyarto): Fentanyl Misuse and Overdose Prevention Task Force
As Amended – September 7, 2023 – SUPPORT
Assembly Third Reading File**

The California State Association of Counties (CSAC), representing all 58 of the state's counties, writes in support of SB 19 by Senator Kelly Seyarto. This measure would establish the Fentanyl Misuse and Overdose Prevention Task Force, upon appropriation by the Legislature. This task force would play a critical role in evaluating the nature and extent of fentanyl usage, as well as developing policy recommendations to mitigate harmful impacts of fentanyl in our communities.

The opioid epidemic remains a public health and safety crisis in our communities. According to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), fentanyl use in California has been growing steadily; CDPH categorizes the United States' opioid epidemic as one that has developed in three waves, with fentanyl (and other synthetic opioids) comprising the third wave post-2013. SB 19 aims to evaluate fentanyl misuse public awareness campaigns, measure and evaluate California's progress in fentanyl overdose prevention, and develop policy recommendations on the implementation of evidence-based practices to reduce overdoses, among many other things.

A key detail of SB 19 is the inclusion of critical state and local stakeholders on the task force. CSAC supports all efforts to elevate a local perspective on issues impacting counties, and particularly for the fentanyl and opioid crisis as it remains a top issue throughout the state.

It is for these reasons that CSAC supports SB 19 and respectfully requests your AYE vote. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding our position, please do not hesitate to contact Jolie Onodera, CSAC Senior Legislative Advocate at jonodera@counties.org and Ryan Morimune, CSAC Legislative Advocate at rmorimune@counties.org.

cc: The Honorable Kelly Seyarto, California State Senate