



March 24, 2023

The Honorable Aisha Wahab, Chair
Senate Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 545
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for SB 44 (Umberg)

Dear Chairwoman Wahab:

The Inland Empire Coalition of Mayors, comprising mayors from cities in San Bernardino and Riverside counties, wishes to express our strong support for Senate Bill 44, also known as Alexandra's Law. This bill 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 whose actions result in death.

Riverside County has suffered one of the hardest hits in this crisis by going from 28 deaths in 2017 to 500 deaths in 2022 due to fentanyl poisoning. We understand that the solution will come through a holistic approach which in part includes having this critical tool to deter people from selling fentanyl and reduce the tragic deaths in our communities.

The Inland Empire Coalition of Mayors 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.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Lock Dawson
Mayor, City of Riverside



Zak Schwank
Mayor, City of Temecula



Acquanetta Warren
Mayor, City of Fontana



Joseph Morabito
Mayor, City of Wildomar



Natasha Johnson
Mayor, City of Lake Elsinore



Todd Rigby
Mayor, City of Eastvale



Dr. Lisa Deforest
Mayor, City of Murrieta



Michael Vargas
Mayor, City of Perris



Tony Daddario
Mayor, City of Corona



Bill Zimmerman
Mayor, City of Menifee



Robin Grundmeyer
Mayor, City of Norco

Cc: Senator Thomas J. Umberg
City of Riverside Legislative Delegation