



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Julian A. Gold, M.D., Mayor

August 28, 2023

The Honorable Chris Holden
Chair, Assembly Committee on Appropriations
1021 O Street, Suite 5650
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 19 (Seyarto) Anti-Fentanyl Abuse Task Force
AB 33 (Bains) Fentanyl Addiction and Overdose Prevention Task Force
City of Beverly Hills – Support

Dear Chair Holden,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I am pleased to write to you in strong **SUPPORT** of both **AB 33 (Bains)** and **SB 19 (Seyarto)**. While each of these bills aims to establish a task force focused on combating fentanyl abuse and overdose, we believe that a single, unified task force would be more effective in addressing the epidemic which continues to plague California.

The fentanyl crisis has escalated over the years, resulting in countless fatal accidental overdoses and misuse of this Schedule II illegal drug. This has become one of the most pressing public safety and public health concerns in our state. The existing legislation has not been sufficient to curb the alarming rate of fentanyl-related incidents, and immediate, comprehensive action is necessary.

Both **AB 33** and **SB 19** are significant steps forward in tackling the fentanyl issue. Each bill aims to establish a task force responsible for researching fentanyl abuse; collecting and organizing data on its extent and impact; and developing policy recommendations. They also focus on evaluating collaborative models between government and non-governmental organizations, implementing evidence-based practices, and increasing public awareness. While we find the objectives of both bills commendable, we believe that their effectiveness would be significantly enhanced through a unified approach.

The City of Beverly Hills urges the legislature to consider a single piece of legislation that would create a comprehensive Anti-Fentanyl Addiction and Overdose Prevention Task Force. By doing so, we can streamline efforts, eliminate redundancy, and ensure a more coordinated and effective response to this grave issue affecting our communities.

The City of Beverly Hills fully acknowledges the urgent need to address the fentanyl crisis and protect both our residents and all Californians. It is for these reasons that the **City of Beverly Hills Supports AB 33 (Bains) and SB 19 (Seyarto)**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julian A. Gold". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Julian" being the most prominent part.

Julian A. Gold, M.D.
Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

cc: The Honorable Kelly Seyarto, Senator, 32nd District
 The Honorable Jasmeet Bains, Assemblymember, 35th District
 The Honorable Ben Allen, Senator, 24th District
 The Honorable Rick Zbur, Assemblymember, 51st District
 Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange