

California State Senate

CAPITOL OFFICE
1021 O STREET, SUITE 7120
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 651-4032

DISTRICT OFFICES
24640 JEFFERSON AVENUE, SUITE 202
MURRIETA, CA 92562
(951) 894-2220

4740 GREEN RIVER ROAD, SUITE 212
CORONA, CA 92878
(951) 280-1620

777 E. TAHQUITZ CANYON WAY, SUITE 200-12
PALM SPRINGS, CA 92262
(760) 422-6684

SENATOR
KELLY SEYARTO
THIRTY-SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES
GOVERNANCE & FINANCE
VICE CHAIR
NATURAL RESOURCES
VICE CHAIR
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #5
APPROPRIATIONS
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION
ENERGY
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT
HOUSING
TRANSPORTATION

September 12, 2023

Governor Gavin Newsom
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Signing Request – Senate Bill 19

Dear Governor Newsom:

I am writing today to respectfully request that you sign Senate Bill 19.

This bill, if implemented, would establish the Fentanyl Misuse and Overdose Prevention Task Force to collect and organize data to analyze the nature and extent of fentanyl abuse in California.

In 2021 alone, California experienced almost 5,800 deaths related to fentanyl overdose. Nationwide, fentanyl abuse has marked a new third-wave of opioid abuse and its effects have been seen in almost every county in the state. Fentanyl overdoses now boasts over 2/3rds of all opioid overdoses in California, and is now recognized as the leading cause of death of Americans aged 18 to 45. Easily producible and 100 times more potent than morphine, the rise in fentanyl has added a new nexus to the drug epidemic that requires a careful evaluation of the structure used for combating drug abuse in California.

The value of bringing together a statewide task force of diverse individuals to combat this fentanyl crisis is critical. The Fentanyl Misuse and Overdose Prevention Task Force will assemble data on the nature and extent of fentanyl abuse and evaluate approaches to increase public awareness to identify resources necessary to respond to this new form of synthetic opioid abuse.

This bill has received bi-partisan support, and I respectfully request that you sign SB-19. Please feel free to contact me should any questions arise at (916) 651-4032.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly Seyarto".

Kelly Seyarto
Senate District 32