



## CITY of LAGUNA NIGUEL

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## CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Fred Minagar  
Mayor Pro Tem Elaine Gennawey  
Council Member Kelly Jennings  
Council Member Sandy Rains  
Council Member Rischi Paul Sharma

March 17, 2021

The Honorable Patricia Bates  
California State Senate, 36<sup>th</sup> District  
State Capitol, Room 3048  
Sacramento, CA 94249

### **Letter of Support SB 75 – Southern California Fentanyl Task Force**

Dear Senator Bates,

The City of Laguna Niguel is pleased to offer its support for Senate Bill 75. We believe this bill will give Orange County cities greater ability to combat the scourge of drug addiction. The Southern California Fentanyl Task Force's creation will give cities, law enforcement, and lawmakers access to timely information on the prevalence of fentanyl and its toll on the region.

As you are aware, California has seen an alarming increase in Fentanyl-related overdoses. In 2019, California had 1,603 deaths related to Fentanyl overdoses alone, a 104.1% increase from the previous year. The drug crisis continues to wreak havoc on individuals, their families, and our communities. The pandemic has only exacerbated these issues, making the formation of this task force all that more important.

The City of Laguna Niguel has recognized the alarming rate at which the opioid crisis impacts California and made the proactive decision to include the crisis in its legislative platform. Additionally, the City has recognized that excess, unused, and unwanted prescription medication can lead to drug addiction and actively collects unwanted prescription medication through its police services department.

Therefore, the City of Laguna Niguel is happy to offer our support to your authored Senate Bill related to the Southern California Fentanyl Task Force and encourages your Senate colleagues to support SB 75.

Sincerely,

Fred Minagar  
Mayor  
City of Laguna Niguel