



MAYOR REX RICHARDSON

September 13, 2023

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 33 (Bains)—Fentanyl Misuse and Overdose Prevention Task Force

Dear Governor Newsom,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I urge your signature on AB 33. This bill would establish the Fentanyl Misuse and Overdose Prevention Task Force. The task force would collect and organize data on fentanyl misuse in California and evaluate the state's progress in preventing fentanyl misuse and death. Furthermore, the task force would develop policy recommendations on the implementation of evidence-based practices to reduce fentanyl overdoses and would review and recommend model treatment protocols for medication-assisted treatment. AB 33 aligns with the City's objectives to support legislation that assists municipalities in combatting opioid overdose.

Fentanyl-related overdose deaths in California have increased dramatically in recent years. Between 2012 and 2018, fentanyl overdose deaths increased by more than 800 percent—from 82 to 786. In 2021, there were 5,961 deaths in California related to fentanyl overdoses. Given the serious threat to the safety and wellbeing of the Long Beach community, the Long Beach City Council adopted a [resolution](#) on November 7, 2022, acknowledging fentanyl and opioid overdoses as a public health crisis. The City of Long Beach is committed to working collaboratively to develop policies that prevent opioid misuse and overdose, such as the City's Narcan distribution policy aimed at establishing guidelines, instructions, and procedures for administering Narcan. Similarly, AB 33 would bring together public health officials, healthcare providers, and law enforcement to coordinate an effective response to reduce fentanyl-related overdoses statewide.

AB 33 would strengthen state and local efforts in responding to fentanyl misuse by increasing public awareness; assessing gaps in federal, state, and local resources to address fentanyl addiction; and analyzing existing laws for their adequacy in addressing fentanyl misuse. For these reasons, the City requests your signature on AB 33.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rex Richardson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mayor Rex Richardson
City of Long Beach

cc: The Honorable Lena Gonzalez, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 65th District
The Honorable Josh Lowenthal, State Assembly, 69th District