



CALIFORNIA CONTRACT CITIES ASSOCIATION



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Executive Director

March 27, 2023

Senator Anthony Portantino
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

CC: Senators Brian W. Jones, Angeliqve V. Ashby, Steven Bradford, Kelly Seyarto, Aisha Wahab, and Scott D. Wiener, and Committee Staff Director Mark McKenzie

RE: Senate Bill 58 - Notice of Opposition, As Amended 3/1/23

Dear Senator Portantino,

The California Contract Cities Association (CCCA) writes to express our opposition to Senate Bill 58, which would decriminalize the possession and use of various psychedelic drugs in the State of California, including psilocybin, psilocyn, dimethyltryptamine (DMT), ibogaine, and mescaline.

This legislation is very similar to SB 519, which failed to pass in 2021 and faced significant opposition from public safety stakeholders such as the California District Attorneys Association. While we acknowledge SB 58 was adjusted to exclude lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) and 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) from its proposal, we remain very concerned about public safety risks associated with decriminalizing psychedelic drugs like DMT and psilocybin.

SB 58 would allow the cultivation and transportation of materials which contain psilocybin or psilocyn. This means that more hallucinogenic drugs would be able to move across local jurisdictions in far greater numbers with insufficient oversight or accountability from local agencies. This is very worrisome from the perspective of local decision-making authorities like our member cities. Ultimately, we feel that any potential health benefits associated with decriminalizing these drugs, many of which have been vastly understudied, do not outweigh public safety risks and local management issues that could detrimentally impact communities.

CCCA represents over 85 cities throughout California. For more than 65 years, CCCA's mission has been to advance the benefits of the contracting model and strengthen local control. With collaborative governance as a focal point, CCCA has advanced its mission through education, advocacy, networking, and legislative access to protect and enhance the quality of life for more than 7.5 million residents. As a matter of policy, our organization supports and defends the rights of cities on policy issues pertinent to them, which include, but are not limited to public safety. We thank you in advance for your consideration of our opposition to SB 58.

Yours in service,

Marcel Rodarte, Executive Director