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April 17, 2023

Senator Aisha Wahab
Chair, Senate Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 545
Sacramento, CA 95814

CC: Senators Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh, Steven Bradford, Nancy Skinner, and Scott D. Wiener, and Chief Counsel Mary Kennedy

RE: Senate Bill 44 - Notice of Support, As Amended 4/13/23

Dear Senator Wahab,

The California Contract Cities Association (CCCA) writes to express our support of Senate Bill 44, Alexandra's Law, which would require that a written advisory is issued to a person convicted of a fentanyl-related drug offense. The advisory, as currently written in the legislation, outlines the dangers of distributing illicit drugs, as well as the potential for criminal liability if the convicted person continues to distribute fentanyl and someone dies as a result of their actions.

Today the country is experiencing a serious fentanyl crisis, which derived from the opioid crisis that has plagued the nation for over two decades. According to recent news releases from Governor Newsom and Senator Umberg's offices, 71,000 Americans died last year from fentanyl-linked overdoses and drug poisonings, and fentanyl became the leading cause of death for people between the ages of 18 and 45. Given the severity of this crisis, it is critical that the State cracks down on fentanyl drug trafficking. CCCA sees SB 44 as a reasoned, dual-pronged approach to curbing drug distribution, prioritizing both education and accountability. The bill not only creates an opportunity to inform drug dealers about the dangers of selling fentanyl, but also holds dealers accountable should they knowingly continue to distribute fentanyl and become involved in a drug-induced death.

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, including public safety. We thank you in advance for your consideration of our support of SB 44.

Yours in service,

Marcel Rodarte, Executive Director