



City of
SANTA CLARITA

23920 Valencia Boulevard • Santa Clarita, California 91355-2196
Phone: (661) 259-2489 • FAX: (661) 259-8125
www.santa-clarita.com

April 25, 2023

Jason Gibbs
Mayor

The Honorable Tom Umberg
California State Senate, District 34
1021 O Street, Room 6530
Sacramento, CA 95814

Cameron Smyth
Mayor Pro Tem

Dear Senator Umberg:

SUBJECT: SB 44 (UMBERG): SUPPORT

Marsha McLean
Councilmember

On behalf of the Santa Clarita City Council, I am pleased to express our support for Senate Bill 44, relating to the sale or distribution of a controlled substance. The Santa Clarita City Council voted unanimously to support this measure on April 11, 2023.

Bill Miranda
Councilmember

The opioid epidemic has become a nationwide issue affecting communities across the state and country, including the City of Santa Clarita (City). Moreover, the growing prevalence of fentanyl has only exacerbated the opioid epidemic and the danger it poses across our communities, especially our youth.

Laurene Weste
Councilmember

As you are aware, it was reported through preliminary 2021 data from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), that there were 6,843 opioid-related overdose deaths in California; 5,722 or nearly 84 percent of these deaths were caused by fentanyl. Moreover, in 2021, there were 224 fentanyl-related overdose deaths among teens ages 15–19 years old, in California.

In 2022, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department reported 32 overdoses in the Santa Clarita Valley as a result of fentanyl. This critical piece of legislation brings awareness to the dangers of fentanyl and holds those distributing the drug accountable to the full extent of the law.

For these reasons, the City strongly supports Senate Bill 44. Should you or your staff require any further information regarding our position on this bill, please feel free to contact Intergovernmental Relations Officer



Honorable Tom Umberg

April 25, 2023

Page 2

Masis Hagobian at (661) 286-4057 or mhagobian@santa-clarita.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Gibbs". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jason" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Gibbs".

Jason Gibbs

Mayor

JG:MH:sk

s\ms\masis\legislative letters\SB 44 (Umberg) Support_4.25.23

cc: Members of the City Council
Senator Scott Wilk
Assemblywoman Pilar Schiavo
Kenneth W. Striplin, City Manager
Frank Oviedo, Assistant City Manager
Leadership Team
Masis Hagobian, Intergovernmental Relations Officer
Jennifer Quan, League of California Cities
California Contract Cities Association
Joe A. Gonsalves & Son