



City of Encinitas City Council's Office

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March 10, 2026

Bruce Ehlers
Mayor

The Honorable Nick Schultz, Chair
Assembly Public Safety Committee
1020 N Street, Room 111
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1667 (Boerner) – Letter of Support

Jim O'Hara
Deputy Mayor

Dear Chairman Schultz,

Joy Lyndes
Council Member

The City of Encinitas strongly supports Assembly Bill 1667 and would like to thank Assemblymember Boerner for authoring this important legislation. AB 1667 addresses the gap in Penal Code section 1192.7(c)(24) and will make furnishing fentanyl to a minor a serious felony. Existing California law classifies the selling, furnishing, and administering of certain controlled substances, such as heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, and PCP, as a serious felony. Absent from the list is fentanyl, despite being one of the most lethal and rapidly proliferating synthetic opioids in the illicit drug market. Closing this loophole is essential to protecting our youths from bad actors who, simply put, carry a deadly weapon in the form of fentanyl. AB 1667 brings California law in line with the current realities of the opioid crisis.

Marco San Antonio
Council Member

Luke Shaffer
Council Member

The landscape of public health has been fundamentally reshaped by the synthetic opioid crisis. According to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 69% of all drug overdose deaths in 2023, or nearly 73,000 deaths, in the United States involved synthetic opioids.¹ Leading this devastation is fentanyl, with adolescents and young adults becoming increasingly exposed to it, and often unknowingly. In lieu of real pharmaceutical drugs, criminals are selling counterfeit drugs and pills, typically composed of fillers made with zero quality control, including fentanyl. In 2024, the Drug Enforcement Administration released their "Fake Pills" fact sheet stating five out of every 10 pills with fentanyl contain a potentially lethal dose.²

Jennifer Campbell
City Manager

Fentanyl is up to 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine. A dose as small as 2 milligrams can be fatal. California Health Policy Strategies recently stated that between 2018 and 2023, fentanyl-related deaths in California surged by over 800%, rising

¹ Drug Overdose Deaths in the United States, 2003–2023

² DEA-OPCK_FactSheet_November_2024.pdf

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from 786 to 7,137 deaths annually. Additionally, the organization highlighted that overdosing is the leading cause of death for Californians aged 15-44 as drug overdoses accounted for 28% of all deaths in 2023.³

The City of Encinitas supports AB 1667 because it will serve as an urgent and immediate response to aid in stopping fentanyl distribution. Additionally, the City's legislative priorities recognize the importance that this bill will serve to protect residents' health and safety.

Since the passage of Proposition 36, California voters have made it clear that we must address homelessness, drug addiction, and theft, particularly when it is driven by highly dangerous controlled substances like fentanyl. AB 1667 addresses this public safety priority and will protect the vulnerable populations that synthetic opioid dealers target.

By classifying the furnishing of fentanyl to a minor as a serious felony, the Legislature appropriately updates the law with the seriousness of fentanyl and the intent of California voters to strengthen tools that deter and protect against this conduct. The bill provides prosecutors with a critical mechanism and sends a clear message that exploiting minors with fentanyl will be met with the highest level of accountability.

For these reasons, the City of Encinitas is pleased to support AB 1667 (Boerner).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce Ehlers".

Bruce Ehlers, Mayor
City of Encinitas

Cc: Catherine Hill, Regional Public Affairs Manager, San Diego and Imperial Counties,
League of California Cities

Christian Filbrun, Legislative Assistant, Office of Assemblymember Boerner

³ https://calhps.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/CA_OD_BRIEF-March.pdf