



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

TODD GLORIA

MAYOR

May 7, 2024

The Honorable Angelique Ashby
Member of the State Senate
1021 O Street, Room 7320
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support/Sponsor Senate Bill 1502 (Ashby)

Dear Senator Ashby:

I am writing in support and to offer sponsorship of your measure, Senate Bill 1502, which would add xylazine to the list of Schedule III substances. This is an important change to help law enforcement in the prosecution of drug trafficking and related deaths.

A recent study by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) named fentanyl the deadliest drug in the United States. According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, “Xylazine is making the deadliest drug threat our country has ever faced, fentanyl, even deadlier.” While xylazine has a legitimate use for veterinary medicine, its combination with fentanyl to create the street drug known as “tranq,” is concerning, particularly because the drug is resistant to the overdose reversal drug naloxone. The DEA has seized xylazine and fentanyl mixtures in 48 of 50 States and the DEA Laboratory System is reporting that in 2022 approximately 23% of fentanyl powder and 7% of fentanyl pills seized by the DEA contained xylazine. In the City of San Diego, “accidental overdose” was the leading cause of death according to 2022 data. Of those, 624 overdose deaths in San Diego, 410 individual deaths, or 66%, involved fentanyl. The problem is particularly acute in the homeless population. Accidental overdoses as a cause of death for people experiencing homelessness in the City have increased from 2018 to 2022 by 438% (45 to 242) and accidental overdoses involving fentanyl among the same population over that time period have increased an alarming 5,933% (3 to 181).

SB 1502 classifies Xylazine as a Schedule III substance, which enables the DEA to restrict access to the medication and is intended to stem the emerging tide of this harmful drug. Please feel free to contact the City's lobbyist, Moira Topp, at (916) 206-4459 if you have any questions or concerns regarding the position of the City of San Diego.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd Gloria".

TODD GLORIA

Mayor

City of San Diego