

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 10 AS NATIONAL FENTANYL AWARENESS DAY

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION No. 2291-4**

WHEREAS, California is recognizing May 10th as National Fentanyl Awareness Day - an opportunity to educate the community about the dangers of fentanyl; and

WHEREAS, drug traffickers mass-produce fake or counterfeit pills in an effort to falsely market them as legitimate prescription pills, resulting in deceptions and threats to communities throughout the nation and locally; and

WHEREAS, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) has observed a dramatic rise in the number of counterfeit pills containing at least two milligrams of fentanyl, which is considered a deadly dose; and

WHEREAS, four out of 10 pills with fentanyl tested by the DEA contain a potentially lethal dose; and

WHEREAS, the number of law enforcement-seized counterfeit pills with fentanyl has increased by nearly 502 percent since 2019; and

WHEREAS, more than 9,500,000 counterfeit pills were seized within the last year, which exceeds the total number of counterfeit pills seized for the previous two years combined; and

WHEREAS, fake or counterfeit pills have been identified in all 50 states and the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, fentanyl has also been detected in drugs such as heroin and cocaine; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, more than 93,000 drug overdose deaths in the US were from fentanyl or another synthetic opioid. For the 12-month period ending October 2021, more than 105,000 Americans died due to drug-induced deaths, including 69,000 deaths involving fentanyl; and

WHEREAS, the California departments of Public Health, Health Care Access and Information, and Justice, along with the California Health Care Foundation established a dashboard monitoring overdoses in the state, and each county; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thomas J. Umberg (Santa Ana) introduced Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 100 to declare May 10th as Fentanyl Awareness Day in California on April 18, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Opioid Overdose Prevention Project (SCCOOPP) is a coalition of healthcare professionals and volunteers from varying backgrounds collaborating to promote and educate the community about opioid safety, such as providing free Narcan training. The SCCOOPP is part of a large statewide network, the California Opioid Prevention Network; and

WHEREAS, over the last 20 years, drug-induced deaths among those 15 to 35 years of age have increased six-fold, largely driven by the increase in fentanyl drugs. Fentanyl-involved deaths are the fastest growing among 14 to 23-year-olds; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, drug overdose and poisoning deaths for persons 14 to 18 years of age grew by 169 percent, more than three times as fast as the national rate and faster than any other five-year age group; and

WHEREAS, fake or counterfeit pills are easily accessible and often sold on social media and e-commerce platforms, making them available to teens and youth. Fentanyl is involved in more youth deaths than all other drug-related deaths combined; and

WHEREAS, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) collaborates to address the dangers of fentanyl specific to youth and works with municipalities and educational organizations to share collateral specific to campaigns aimed at youth; and

WHEREAS, as a contributor to the solution of ending fentanyl-related deaths, the SCCOE established Tobacco Use Prevention Education (TUPE), a program that educates and encourages youth to make healthy decisions through tobacco and opioid overdose awareness curriculum, toolkits, and activities they can share with peers; and

WHEREAS, to support student well-being, the student wellness centers in schools located across the county aid youth experiencing substance abuse; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Santa Clara County Board of Education and County Superintendent of Schools do hereby adopt this resolution to recognize May 10 as National Fentanyl Awareness Day and support the work at all levels to protect the wellbeing of youth.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the County Board of Education at a meeting held on May 4, 2022, by the following vote:

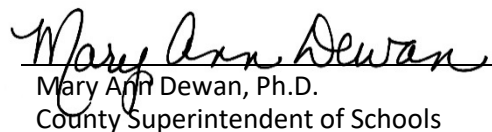
AYES: President Ortiz, Vice President Chon and Trustees Di Salvo, Kamei, Mah, Rossi, and Sreekrishnan

NOES: none

ABSTAIN: none

ABSENT: none


Peter Ortiz, President
Santa Clara County Board of Education


Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools