



## SENATOR DAVE CORTESE SB 10

# Opioid & Fentanyl Overdose Prevention Among Youth

### SUMMARY

SB 10 will expand statewide prevention and education efforts to combat the skyrocketing overdoses and fentanyl-related deaths that have plagued youth statewide.

### ISSUE

As reported recently by The Mercury News, fentanyl was responsible for an astounding one in five youth deaths (ages 15-to-24) in California last year. In one year alone (2019-2020), fentanyl overdoses among youth nearly doubled and we have seen that trend continue to increase.

Fentanyl and other synthetic opioids were responsible for more than 105,000 deaths in America from October 2020 to October 2021, with 69,000 deaths being caused by fentanyl.

Fentanyl, in particular, is responsible for more deaths among youth than all other drugs combined. This drug can be found in fake and counterfeit pills that are sold through social media or e-commerce platforms, making them available to youth.

Across America, the Drug Enforcement Agency has noted a considerable rise in the amount of fake and counterfeit pills containing a deadly dose of fentanyl – nearly a 502 percent increase since 2019.

### BACKGROUND

Pursuant to Education Code Section 49414.3, school nurses or trained personnel who have volunteered may provide emergency medical aid through naloxone hydrochloride or another opioid antagonist.

Through the statewide standing order issued by the State Public Health Officer pursuant to Section 1714.22 of the Civil Code, local education agencies may apply to receive opioid antagonists such as naloxone. The State Department of Health Care Services is currently administering the Naloxone Distribution Project to

provide entities, including local education agencies, opioid antagonists, such as naloxone.

### THIS BILL

SB 10 seeks to provide necessary intervention, increase accessibility to resources and provide valuable education and training services to protect our youth from fentanyl poisoning and overdoses. SB 10 does the following:

- Requires local education agencies to embed opioid overdose prevention and treatment in their **School Safety Plans**, including synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl; and
- Requires the California Department of Education to work with California Health and Human Services Agency to develop and distribute an **Opioid Antagonist Training & School Resource Guide** to all local education agencies regarding the emergency use of opioid antagonists, such as naloxone, on school campuses; and
- Requires local education agencies **distribute safety advice** to families regarding opioid overdose prevention including through student orientation materials and through posting online information; and
- Establishes a **State Working Group on Fentanyl Overdose/Abuse Prevention** focused on public education, awareness, prevention and minimizing overdoses; and
- Encourages the establishment of **County Working Groups on Fentanyl Overdose/Abuse Prevention** through a new state grant program.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Tara Sreekrishnan  
Office of Senator Dave Cortese  
(408) 480 7833  
[Tara.Sreekrishnan@sen.ca.gov](mailto:Tara.Sreekrishnan@sen.ca.gov)