



AB 2429 Fentanyl Education

Bill Summary

AB 2429 will require school districts that require its students to complete a course in health education for graduation from high school to include in the curriculum lessons on the dangers of fentanyl.

Background/Problem

After being developed in 1959, Fentanyl was introduced in the early 1970s as a powerful synthetic opioid drug used to provide pain relief and anesthesia for patients experiencing powerful pain.

Despite its medical origin, it has emerged as one of the most dangerous drugs on the market. It is currently driving the deadliest drug epidemic in history, is the leading cause of death for Americans ages 18 to 49, and more people have died of synthetic-opioid overdoses than the number of U.S. military personnel killed during the Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan wars combined.

A significant factor in its danger is that it is highly addictive and approximately 100 times more potent than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin. It takes just a mere 2 milligrams of fentanyl to overdose, which can be unidentifiable when it is used to lace something else.

Although a significant problem across the country and other parts of the world, California has been disproportionately hit hard. Between 2019 and 2021, California's opioid-related deaths spiked 121%. Moreover, since taking office, the Newsom administration spent more than a billion dollars to resolve this crisis.

Solution

To inculcate students from the danger that Fentanyl poses, AB 2429 will require school districts with a health course as a graduation requirement to

incorporate lessons on the dangers of Fentanyl in the curriculum.

The bill also details what must be included in those lessons. Specifically, the lessons must consist of a basic understanding of the drug, risk factors of using it, recognizing "lacing," and acknowledging and reacting to a Fentanyl overdose.

Increasing awareness through education is critical to deter kids from fentanyl use and be able to recognize it and assist in emergencies. Resolving this crisis will take a myriad of solutions. However, increasing education and understanding must be at the forefront of our solutions.

Conclusion

AB 2429 will comprehensively educate high-school students of the dangers of fentanyl and provide methods of protection.

Support

- San Diego County (Sponsor)
- County Health Executives Association of California (CHEAC)
- California Emergency Nurses Association

For More Information

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