

July 2, 2017

Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman  
Member of the Assembly  
State Capitol  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Dr. Eggman:

The Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs, Association of Deputy District Attorneys, California Association of Code Enforcement Officers, California College and University Police Chiefs Association, California Narcotic Officers Association, Los Angeles County Probation Officers Union AFSCME Local 685, the Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association and the Los Angeles Police Protective League regret that they must continue to oppose Assembly Bill 186, which would authorize what amounts to little more than county sanctioned shooting galleries.

Assembly Bill 186 stands in stark contrast to the law enforcement supported LEAD program model. Under the LEAD program, caseworkers and law enforcement partner to keep individuals accountable to a treatment program rather than through criminal prosecution. This approach requires wraparound services and buy-in from everyone involved in the cycle of substance abuse. Sadly, AB 186 is missing these important elements.

Rather than a robust effort to get addicts into treatment, AB 186 alarmingly concedes the inevitable and immutable nature of drug addiction and abuse. For example, missing from AB 186 are any strategies to appropriately utilize methadone alternatives, mandatory treatment protocols, on-site drug counseling, or even efforts to gradually wean an addict off the cycle of dependence. In effect, the unintended consequence of AB 186 is to normalize substance abuse.

In addition to the fact that AB 186 contains no requirement that a participant in these programs receive even a single day of treatment, the language of AB 186 creates other problematical issues:

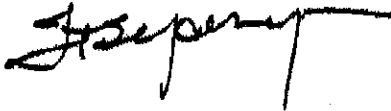
- There are tremendous liability issues for local governments when participants inevitably overdose, or injure or kill someone else after leaving a program site.
- The bill fails to provide adequate parameters for who would operate such a program and does not address by whom or in what capacity the staff would be trained.
- The immunity provided against drug-related offenses could extend to anyone claiming to be participating in one of these programs, and potentially extend miles away from the site.
- Local law enforcement would be handcuffed in responding to calls for service by individuals and businesses in neighborhoods around a site, since local approval of this program would necessarily require leniency on all drug crimes in a certain area.
- These programs would no doubt be operated in disadvantaged and fragile neighborhoods, concentrating more crime and problems in areas already in distress. It is

for this reason that the International Faith Based Coalition, representing 5,000 primarily inner-city houses of worship, strongly opposes AB 186.


- The concentration of drug addicts at a specific site will inevitably result in those sites being a magnet for drug dealers, since their clientele will be easily within reach. This raises the question, since the bill prohibits criminal proceedings against a wide array of participants in AB 186, do street drug dealers also have an arguable defense against prosecution?

The LEAD program represents a thorough and thoughtful way to respond to the tragedy of drug addiction. In contrast, AB 186 has the unintended consequence of enabling continued and unabated addiction, resulting in public health, public safety and quality of life damage to the most vulnerable communities in California.

Sincerely,



Tim Yaryan  
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Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs  
Association of Deputy District Attorneys  
Los Angeles County Probation Officers Union AFSCME Local 685  
Los Angeles Police Protective League



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California Narcotic Officers Association  
Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association