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August 1, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Recommended Veto of SB 57 (Wiener)

Dear Governor Newsom:

We respectfully write to request your veto of SB 57, a measure that would authorize several California cities to operate drug dens that would provide addicted individuals with sterile needles and other consumption supplies for pre-obtained drugs.

While drug addiction is a growing and serious problem, this bill will create state-sanctioned drug use facilities with no requirements that participants enter treatment, or that staff be medically certified beyond CPR and first aid. This bill is a distraction from the real need for long overdue efforts to provide state-funded and operated effective drug treatment programs.

Opponents of this idea have consistently, and rightfully, noted that it would have “the real potential to do continued damage on our most vulnerable communities.” It is not humane, or compassionate, to allow individuals to live, shoot up, or die on the streets without providing them the assistance and help they need to recover and live fulfilling lives.

Further, while the bill provides immunities for local officials and health care professionals under state law, it cannot and does not do so under federal law, exposing them to potential federal criminal charges. Governor Jerry Brown, in the 2018 veto message on a similar measure noted that the then United States Attorney General already had threatened prosecution. As such, signing SB 57 bill would be irresponsible.

Fueling the drug epidemic with drug dens and needle supplies is like pouring gasoline on a forest fire. It merely worsens the problem. For all these reasons, we respectfully request your veto.

Sincerely,



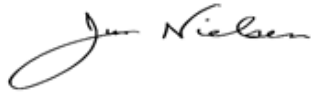
Scott Wilk
Senate Republican Leader
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1st Senate District



Jim Nielsen
4th Senate District



Andreas Borgeas
8th Senate District



Shannon Grove
16th Senate District



Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh
23rd Senate District



Melissa Melendez
28th Senate District



Patricia Bates
36th Senate District