



NATIONAL NARCOTIC OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS' COALITION

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www.nnoac.com

August 16, 2022

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsome,

The National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition (NNOAC) represents our nation's State Narcotic Officers' Associations and their thousands of members. We join our colleagues at the California Narcotic Officers Association (CNOA) in vigorously opposing SB57, which includes plans to establish drug consumption sites in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Oakland and in San Francisco and Los Angeles Counties. Not only are such sites illegal, but they will also draw more drug abusers and criminals into the areas where you allow them to operate. Crime and drug deaths will increase at the expense of decreased public safety.

There are numerous news articles regarding San Francisco Mayor Breed's comments about getting tougher on the crime that is plaguing San Francisco. While I applaud those comments, it will be difficult for crime fighting efforts to succeed there, or anywhere else, if you proceed with plans to fund and open drug consumption sites proposed in SB57. That will be an open invitation for more drug abusers and criminals to commit crimes in your cities at a time when it is already difficult to protect businesses and citizens from the crimes they are experiencing.

The terms "safe consumption site" and "safe injection site" are misnomers – using or injecting illegal drugs is never safe, as evidenced by the plan to include monitors at the consumption sites to supervise drug use. If those sites will be safe, why are monitors needed? Enabling and pandering to drug users does nothing to decrease drug abuse, save lives or improve public safety.

Proponents' claims that consumption sites will reduce drug overdose deaths are simply not true. An in-depth review of statistics from other cities and countries that have experimented with consumption/injection sites reveal significant increases in drug deaths, drug abuse and crime. For example, the British Columbia Coroners Services reported that, after eighteen years of operations of such a site in Vancouver, there was about a 1,000% increase in drug overdose deaths, rising from 172 to 1723. Now the vicinity of the Vancouver injection site has become a center of drug trafficking, drug use, and criminal activities. Only a small percentage of drug users actually use the injection site regularly, while most drug users ignore the injection site, defeating the intended purpose.

The situation is similar in Australia and Europe. According to the European Center for Monitoring Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMDDA), overdose drug deaths doubled five years after the introduction of injection sites in the Netherlands and they were more than double again, twenty years later. Only 7 of the 49 European Countries have injection sites, numbering around 75, mostly in the Netherlands and Portugal, and they too, report problems of attracting drug users, drug trafficking and criminal activity. These are by no means, success stories.

Another reason for concern is the recent announcement that over 107,000 people in America lost their lives to drug poisonings and overdoses during the past year. Many thousands more succumbed to addiction or were victims of drug fueled-violent crime. And those numbers are still increasing. That is inexcusable, and our NNOAC members and partners know that many of those deaths were preventable. Our Country can decrease drug abuse to avoid many of those deaths. We have done it before, but it requires bold initiative and a firm resolve. Yet, while most of our nation's drug policy is aimed at drug addiction and treatment, it seems to overlook the role that vigorous support and enforcement of drug laws contribute to reducing drug availability, an important factor that can prevent people from becoming addicted.

Allowing consumption sites to operate will not result in reducing drug abuse, addiction, or deaths in any city. As proven in the other places, those numbers will increase, posing even greater threats to your citizens. They will further compromise public safety, at a time when law enforcement resources are stretched beyond their capacity. Drug users pose significant risks to the health and safety of the law enforcement officers, EMS workers, and medical personnel that respond to deal with persons that are under the influence of dangerous drugs.

All levels of government have a responsibility to do much more to prevent losing so many people each year to drug induced deaths. The NNOAC urges you to veto SB57 and the injection site program plan, and instead, promote programs that will improve, not decrease, the quality of life and safety that the citizens of your state deserve, that businesses seek, and tourists expect.

Again, I remind you that the drug consumption site plan that you are proposing in California is a violation of federal law. It will not improve public safety, and your state risks suffering many more ruined lives and preventable deaths if you implement this program to enable and promote drug abuse.

Sincerely,



Eric Brown, President
NNOAC