



March 18, 2024

The Honorable Chris Holden
Chair, Assembly Appropriations Committee
1021 O St., Suite 8220
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1859 (Alanis) – Support

Dear Assembly Member Holden:

Every day, hospitals see firsthand the devastation wrought by drugs and drug overdoses. In March 2023, Tomás J. Aragón, Director of the California Department of Public Health and State Public Health Officer issued an [alert](#) to public health officers about the presence of xylazine in illicit fentanyl – making the use of opioids even more deadly and medically complex.

According to the state’s alert, “Routine screening for xylazine in post-mortem toxicology may be an effective way to monitor population trends locally and across the state.” AB 1859 would codify this recommendation and make it possible for California to more actively examine the public health dangers of xylazine in the illicit drug supply and put efforts in place to protect the health of Californians.

The California Hospital Association, on behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems, is pleased to support Assembly Bill 1859, which would require coroners to test for xylazine if an individual may have died from an opioid overdose.

AB 1859 also requires coroners to report tests showing evidence of xylazine to the State Department of Public Health for posting on its Overdose Surveillance Dashboard, as well as to the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program managed by the Washington/Baltimore High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area program.

CHA respectfully requests your “AYE” vote when AB 1859 comes before your committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leah Barros", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Leah Barros, Contract Lobbyist

cc: The Honorable Juan Alanis
The Honorable Members of the Assembly Appropriations Committee
Allegra Kim, Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Joe Shinstock, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus