



July 16, 2024

The Honorable Anna Caballero
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 412
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1859 (Alanis) — SUPPORT

Dear Senator Caballero:

Every day, hospitals witness the severe impact of drugs and drug overdoses across California. In March 2023, Tomás J. Aragón, Director of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) 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.” Assembly Bill (AB) 1859 (Alanis, R-Modesto) 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 (CHA), on behalf of more than 400 hospitals and health systems, supports AB 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 CDPH 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 blue 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 Senate Appropriations Committee
Agnes Lee, Consultant, Senate Appropriations Committee
Joe Parra and Tim Conaghan, Consultants, Senate Republican Caucus

