

1 [Supporting California State Senate Bill No. 997 (Portantino) - Drug Test Strips and Naloxone
2 Access in Schools]

3 **Resolution supporting California State Senate Bill No. 997 (SB 997), introduced by**
4 **Senate Member Anthony Portantino (SD-25), on January 31, 2024, that would allow**
5 **students to carry federally approved naloxone hydro-chloride nasal spray (Narcan) and**
6 **for schools to provide fentanyl test strips to students.**

7

8 WHEREAS, Overdoses from substance use is a national public health crisis, with
9 overdose deaths escalating in San Francisco over the past years; and

10 WHEREAS, Last year alone, San Francisco lost more than 800 lives to accidental
11 overdose; and

12 WHEREAS, Young people, including students in middle and high school, are not
13 immune to the dangers and impacts of substance use disorder; and

14 WHEREAS, The increased presence and availability of opioids, including fentanyl, has
15 put young people are at higher risk of accidental overdose than before; and

16 WHEREAS, According to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report
17 from 2022, approximately 90% of drug overdose deaths among U.S. adolescents between the
18 ages of 10 to 19 involved opioids and approximately 84% involved fentanyl; and

19 WHEREAS, This report identified the expansion of naloxone training and access
20 among the key recommendations to prevent overdose deaths among young people; and

21 WHEREAS, The CDC also reported in 2022 that among young people, fentanyl
22 poisoning accounted for 640 out of 807 deaths by opioid overdose, approximately 79%; and

23 WHEREAS, UCLA Health recently that although despite illicit drug use amongst U.S.
24 adolescents between ages 14 to 18 has decreased over past years, the increase in overdose

25

1 deaths is linked to fentanyl in counterfeit pills including oxycodone, benzodiazepine, and other
2 similar prescription drugs; and

3 WHEREAS, The Federal Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Naloxone
4 Hydrochloride Nasal Spray as a safe and effective medication for the reversal of opioid
5 overdose; and

6 WHEREAS, Fentanyl Test Strips (FTS) are inexpensive, reliable, and effective
7 technology that detect the presence of fentanyl in drug samples prior to use; and

8 WHEREAS, A North Carolina-based study involving a community FTS distribution
9 program found that 81% of participants who had access to FTS not only routinely utilized
10 them prior to substance use, but were five times more likely to change their drug use behavior
11 to reduce risk of overdose; and

12 WHEREAS, California State Senate Bill No. 997 (SB 997) would permit students in
13 middle and high school to carry federally approved Naloxone Hydrochloride Nasal Spray and
14 would allow schools to stock and distribute fentanyl test strips; and

15 WHEREAS, The passage of this bill will align state law with what many public health
16 and medical professionals have recommended for years as a best practice and effective
17 preventative intervention to drug overdose; now, therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors supports SB 997, which will
19 help tackle drug related overdoses among young people; and be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Supervisors directs the Clerk of the Board
21 to send a copy of this Resolution upon final passage to Senator Portantino's office, the offices
22 of San Francisco's State Legislative Delegation, and the Governor's Office.

23
24
25