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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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