

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

Fentanyl Resolution

WHEREAS, the increasing prevalence of fentanyl poses a significant public health and safety risk to Orange County communities; and

WHEREAS, nationwide drug-related deaths exceeded 100,000 between April 2020 and April 2021. Fentanyl is a significant contributing factor to this alarming statistic; and

WHEREAS, Orange County fentanyl-related deaths have increased 1100% from 37 in 2016 to 432 in 2020. In that same period statewide fentanyl related deaths increased over 1600% from 239 to 3,857; and

WHEREAS, many of these deaths are the result of drug dealers selling counterfeit pills containing illicit fentanyl. The person consuming is unaware of the fentanyl presence; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Sheriff's Department continues efforts to interdict and seize illicit narcotics. From 2017-2020 Sheriff's narcotics teams seized 388 pounds of fentanyl. These seizures potentially contained 88 million lethal doses and had a total street value is \$43 million. Each dose taken off the street represents a potential life saved; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Sheriff's Department and municipal police agencies have begun issuing advisements to all those arrested for selling narcotics. The advisement states that if a dealer sells, furnishes, or distributes drugs to someone, and that person dies as a result of using the drugs, they can be charged with murder. Similarly, the Orange District Attorney's Office adopted a policy to advise offenders convicted of certain drug-related charges that if they commit a drug-related crime again and someone dies as a result they can be charged with murder; and

WHEREAS, the Drug Enforcement Agency has launched a public campaign, "One Pill Can Kill," to raise awareness that pills purchased outside of a licensed pharmacy are illegal, dangerous, and potentially deadly. This message is also reiterated in the Orange County Sheriff's Department's "Above the Influence" school education program; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Orange County Board of Education joins with Orange County law enforcement in committing to eliminate the threat of fentanyl to our community.

AYES: 5

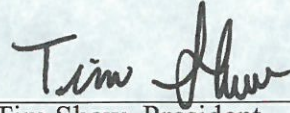
NOES: 0

ABSENT: 0

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ORANGE

I, Tim Shaw, President to the Board of Education of Orange County, California hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the said Board at a regular meeting thereof held on the 2nd day of August 2023.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 2nd day of August 2023.



Tim Shaw, President
Orange County Board of Education

