September XX, 2023

**Via Email:** **leg.unit@gov.ca.gov**

The Honorable Gavin Newsom

Governor of California

1021 O Street, Suite 9000

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 641 – Signature Request**

Dear Governor Newsom:

[Name of Organization] respectfully requests your approval of Senate Bill 641, which would save lives and state resources by ensuring that California’s Naloxone Distribution Project (NDP) makes all dosage strengths and formulations of opioid overdose reversal products available across our state.

The opioid epidemic is among the most significant public health crises in California's history, with fentanyl now accounting for the vast majority of California’s thousands of annual overdose deaths. The proliferation of fentanyl, which is up to 50 times stronger than heroin, has made it increasingly difficult to reverse overdoses with the current dosage strengths of naloxone provided by the NDP. Under SB 641, eligible NDP participants would have access to the right range of tools necessary to save lives.

The NDP is critical in preventing overdose deaths, and this bill would ensure that all FDA-approved formulations and dosage strengths of overdose reversal products are made available to eligible applicants. By providing additional dosage strengths and formulations, SB 641 will help ensure that those who administer live saving emergency care—including law enforcement, first responders, community organizations, indigenous tribes, and school personnel—have the best chance of reversing overdoses.

Currently, the NDP does not give Californians access to the best innovations for overdose reversals. For example, while Medi-Cal, CalPERS, private insurers, and many other states cover or provide an eight-milligram nasal naloxone formulation, the NDP does not. The eight-milligram product—which was developed in response to the proliferation of fentanyl—is safe and desperately needed. Countless stakeholders have reached out to the NDP to plead for this additional tool. Surprisingly, the 8mg product is also available to the NDP at cost-parity with the 4mg product, meaning it is half the cost on a milligram-by-milligram basis. Adding additional tools make both policy and fiscal sense.

Recent data from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation shows that more than 81 percent of overdoses require more than one dose of the 4mg naloxone currently provided by the NDP. Therefore, in more than eight out of ten overdose cases, the state could realize significant cost savings, while also providing patients and first responders with the best reversal product. These cost-savings within the NDP will allow broader distribution of all types of naloxone to achieve the saturation level that experts believe will stem the deadly opioid scourge.

SB 641 has received strong bipartisan support throughout the legislative process and has received no “no” votes. For these reasons, we respectfully request your approval of this vital measure.

Sincerely,

**Name**

Title

Cc: Ms. Angela Pontes, Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of Governor Newsom