

San Francisco Chronicle

Letters: Veto puts lives at risk

October 17, 2023

Regarding “Newsom signs treatment-focused bills in response to fentanyl crisis, but vetoes others” (Politics, SFChronicle.com, Oct. 9): Synthetic opioids like fentanyl are now responsible for the majority of overdose deaths in California. The proliferation of fentanyl has made it increasingly difficult to reverse overdoses with a single dose of naloxone, so stronger formulations and newer treatments must be made available.

Gov. Gavin Newsom recently vetoed SB641, which would have expanded California’s naloxone distribution project to include all Food and Drug Administration-approved opioid reversal formulations.

A person experiencing a chaotic drug event deserves harm reduction and robust treatment options, not a death sentence. The fentanyl epidemic demands an “every tool in the toolbox” approach.

We must continue to push for policies that provide those on the front lines with the resources they need to save lives. Californians deserve better.

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