



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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May 29, 2024

The Honorable Aisha Wahab
Senate Public Safety Committee, Chair
1020 N Street, Room 545
Sacramento, CA 95814

ASSEMBLY BILL 2018 (RODRIGUEZ)
SUPPORT
Senate Public Safety Committee
Hearing Date: June 4, 2024

Dear Senator Wahab:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 2018 (Rodriguez).

AB 2018 removes fenfluramine from Schedule IV of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act (UCSA) and eliminates criminal penalties for possession for personal use, possession for sale, or sale of fenfluramine.

Under existing law, fenfluramine is a Schedule IV controlled substance under UCSA. Existing law prohibits possession of fenfluramine for personal use, without a valid prescription, an offense punishable as either an infraction or a misdemeanor.

Fenfluramine is drug prescribed to people suffering seizures as a result of Dravet syndrome and Lennox-Gastaut syndrome, severe forms of epilepsy. Both the FDA and the National Institute on Drug Abuse recommended that fenfluramine be removed from all schedules of control under the Controlled Substances Act. The DEA also determined that fenfluramine "has no potential for abuse and does not meet the finding for control under any CSA schedule"; it "has currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States"; and abuse by users of the substance is unlikely "to lead to limited physical dependence or psychological dependence." As a result, it found that "fenfluramine does not meet requirements for inclusion in any schedule and should be removed from control under the CSA." As a result, fenfluramine was removed from all schedules under the federal Controlled Substances Act in December of 2022.

Because AB 2018 would align California law with the federal Controlled Substances Act and ensure this critical medicine is available to patients suffering from rare forms of epilepsy, our Office is pleased to support AB 2018.

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If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Daniel Felizzatto in my Sacramento Legislative Office at (916) 442-0668.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George", written in a cursive style.

GEORGE GASCÓN
District Attorney

cc: Assembly Member Rodriguez
Eric Czimar, Senate Republican Policy Unit