

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-R-115

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 1644 RELATING TO THE LEGAL USE, POSSESSION, DELIVERY, OR MANUFACTURE OF TESTING EQUIPMENT THAT IDENTIFIES THE PRESENCE OF FENTANYL, FENTANYL DERIVATIVES, OR XYLAZINE; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the misuse of fentanyl and its analogues, as well as substances like xylazine, has resulted in a dramatic rise in overdose-related injuries and fatalities across Texas and the nation; and

WHEREAS, local governments and public health agencies are actively seeking evidence-based strategies to reduce overdose deaths and mitigate the impact of synthetic opioids in our communities; and

WHEREAS, drug testing equipment, such as fentanyl test strips, are a proven harm reduction tool that can detect the presence of fentanyl, including when it is found in other dangerous substances that may be laced, contaminated, or otherwise poisoned, thereby enabling individuals to take informed and potentially life-saving precautionary measures; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 1644, introduced in the Texas Legislature, would amend Section 481.125 of the Texas Health and Safety Code to explicitly exempt from prosecution individuals who use, possess, deliver, or manufacture testing equipment that detects fentanyl, alpha-methylfentanyl, any other derivative of fentanyl, or xylazine; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Laredo supports legislative efforts that improve public safety, ~~advance health equity~~ strengthen population health, and equip residents with tools to reduce harm and prevent loss of life.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAREDO, TEXAS THAT:

Section 1: The City Council hereby expresses its full support for House Bill 1644, which seeks to legalize the use, possession, delivery, or manufacture of testing equipment capable of identifying the presence of fentanyl and its derivatives, as well as xylazine.

Section 2: The City Council urges the Texas Legislature to pass House Bill 1644, recognizing its potential to save lives and address the opioid crisis through responsible and practical harm reduction measures.

Section 3: The City of Laredo affirms its commitment to supporting policies that protect public health and safety, and calls on state leaders to prioritize legislation that empowers local communities to respond effectively to the opioid epidemic.

PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR ON THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2025.