



TOM UMBERG

SENATOR, 34TH SENATE DISTRICT

SB 60 (Umberg): Prevention of Social Media Drug Sales

SUMMARY

SB 60 would authorize a person to seek a court order requiring a social media platform to remove content pertaining to the sale of illegal drugs.

BACKGROUND

Fentanyl now kills more people ages 18-45 than automobile accidents, gunshots, suicides, and even COVID-19 in 2021.

According to the DEA, 6 out of 10 fentanyl-laced fake prescription pills contain a potentially lethal dose.

The drug overdose epidemic has continued to worsen in the United States over the last several years as synthetic opioids, particularly illicit fentanyl, enter the market. Of specific concern is the primary method through which many individuals, especially teenagers, unlawfully purchase illicit fentanyl and other controlled substances—social media.

Drug traffickers solicit customers via social media platforms such as Snapchat, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, and YouTube. In many cases, traffickers and buyers alike use social media features such as temporary or disappearing posts that help conceal their activities.

Illicit drugs offered on these social media sites can include methamphetamine, heroin, and fentanyl. In addition, fentanyl and other drugs are often falsely marketed as legitimate prescription pills but instead are counterfeit pills

that were illicitly manufactured and are illegally distributed.

News outlets has reported that there are known drug dealers using social media to sell drugs, but even after law enforcement and concerned users make the platform aware, platforms are slow to respond in removing accounts.

No longer confined to street corners and the dark web, criminal drug networks are now in every home and school in America because of the internet apps on our smartphones.

THE SOLUTION

As a society we bear a collective responsibility to care for our citizens. Social media sites need to be more proactive and aggressive in their enforcement of their terms of service, which include prohibitions on drug sales. SB 60 is an attempt to stop drug traffickers from using social media to distribute drugs and prevent unintentional overdoses.

SUPPORT

Orange County Sheriff's Department
Drug Induced Homicide
Fentanyl Solution

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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