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SENATOR, 34TH SENATE DISTRICT

**SB 918 (Umberg): Social Media and Law
Enforcement Cooperation Act**



SUMMARY

SB 918 would require social media platforms to have a telephone hotline available at all times for law enforcement agencies to be able to timely request information. SB 918 also compels social media platforms to immediately comply with a search warrant provided by a law enforcement agency if the subject of the search warrant has an account on the social media platform.

BACKGROUND

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

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

THE SOLUTION

As a society we bear a collective responsibility to care for our citizens. Social media sites must be more proactive and communicative in their enforcement of their terms of service, which should include being responsive to law enforcement agencies investigating crimes on their platforms. Therefore, SB 918 will require social media to cooperate with law enforcement and work together to prevent harms like unintentional overdoses.

SUPPORT

Drug Induced Homicide Organization
Orange County Sheriff's Department
Peace Officers Research Association of CA

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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