



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS

455 NORTH REXFORD DRIVE ▪ BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210

Robert Wunderlich, Mayor

July 1, 2021

The Honorable Scott Wiener
California State Senate, 11th District
State Capitol, Room 5100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 519 (Wiener) Controlled substances: decriminalization of certain hallucinogenic substances

City of Beverly Hills – OPPOSE

Dear Senator Wiener,

On behalf of the City of Beverly Hills, I write to inform you of our respectful OPPOSITION to your SB 519, which would make lawful the possession for personal use and the social sharing, of psilocybin, psilocyn, dimethyltryptamine (DMT), ibogaine, mescaline, lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), ketamine, and 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), by and with persons 21 years of age or older.

SB 519 poses a clear and present danger to public safety. This bill would legalize the use of several addictive and dangerous illicit drugs. These drugs pose a threat to public safety as they alter the relationship between the user and reality. While under the influence of these drugs, the ability of the user to maintain control of their mental faculties is greatly diminished, placing themselves and those around them at significant risk for physical harm.

Aside from the risks posed to individuals and the public from using these dangerous drugs, this bill further erodes public safety by removing the criminal disincentive from using these drugs. By removing the criminal penalties for possessing and using these dangerous drugs, this bill increases the likelihood of their use and the likelihood that individuals will seek them out in the illicit drug market. These individuals will then engage in illegal commercial drug activities with a criminal element run by individuals who may harm them. They also face further danger from purchasing these substances, which are often adulterated with other more lethal substances.

Finally, it is often the most vulnerable populations, and those who have the weakest support systems, that are most susceptible to the increased access and use of drugs. In a time when every jurisdiction should be working together to aid our most vulnerable populations, your bill will make it more difficult for them to escape the cycle of hallucinogenic substance use which frequently occurs in these area.

For these reasons, the City of Beverly Hills must respectfully OPPOSE your SB 519.

Sincerely,



Robert Wunderlich

Mayor, City of Beverly Hills

Cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Public Safety Committee
Members and Consultants, Assembly Health Committee
The Honorable Ben Allen, 26th Senate District
The Honorable Richard Bloom, 50th Assembly District
Andrew K. Antwih, Shaw Yoder Antwih Schmelzer & Lange