

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

JULY 12, 2016

**ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING OF LOCAL OPIOID PRESCRIPTION ISSUANCE AND DISPENSATION**

In a recent media report, a number of local clinics were investigated for prescribing substantial amounts of OxyContin and working in conjunction with corrupt pharmacies in Los Angeles County. Evidence of large quantities of the opioid painkillers were prescribed and issued, which suggested the presence of illegal trafficking in our neighborhood pharmacies.

Evidence exists of homeless people used in these medical rings that conduct scams by shuttling homeless individuals around to various pharmacies, which heightens concerns for security, collateral damage, and other societal issues that hurt our communities.

Under federal law, drug makers are required to alert the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) if high volume orders that trigger awareness of illegal trafficking. Opioid manufacturers are slipping through the cracks due to a chronic lack of federal and State oversight. Drug companies maintain data for the purposes of sales which track the number of prescriptions being issued by individual doctors. A duty to reject orders from customers exists if the company suspects that its drugs are going into the black market.

This sort of federal oversight has fallen short in Los Angeles County. Not only do pharma companies not alert the DEA, but there is no way to shut off the supply of such highly addictive drugs that are going out on the streets until it is too late. The impact of this lack of federal and State compliance impacts us directly, both in the short and long term.

- M O R E -

MOTION

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

KUEHL \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

SOLIS \_\_\_\_\_

**I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

1. Direct the Department of Public Health to report back on the current impacts of opioids and prescriptions of such opioids in Los Angeles County, including an analysis on how physicians and pharmacies in Los Angeles County are being regulated at the federal and State level, and whether any actions regarding the volume of prescriptions of opioids being prescribed is needed.
2. Direct the Chief Executive Officer and the Department of Public Health to provide recommendations to the Board on what actions can be taken to ensure that there is adequate and necessary federal oversight of opioid prescription use, and to establish proper DEA oversight of opioid manufacturers, physicians, and pharmacies that relate to potential illicit opioid prescription activity.

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