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# California State Senate

SENATOR  
**SCOTT WILK**

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER  
TWENTY-FIRST SENATE DISTRICT



COMMITTEES  
GOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANIZATION  
TRANSPORTATION

September 15, 2021

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol, First Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Recommended Veto of AB 1344 (Arambula)

Dear Governor Newsom:

I respectfully write to request your veto of Assembly Bill 1344, which exempts state-authorized needle and syringe exchange programs from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

AB 1344 eliminates the last option for local communities to voice their concerns over state-authorized needle and syringe exchange programs placed in their communities against their will. As the Coastal Watershed Council notes, AB 1344 eliminates the last environmental protection and local review, with appropriate compliance monitoring, which may result in even greater syringe and medical waste. Finally, AB 1344 removes all accountability from the Department of Public Health for authorizing needle exchange programs. Hazardous needle litter is both a danger and risk to public safety so health officials should not be removed from this equation.

For these reasons, I respectfully request your veto. If you have any questions about my request, please call my office at 916-651-4021 or email me at [Senator.Wilk@senate.ca.gov](mailto:Senator.Wilk@senate.ca.gov)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Wilk".

Scott Wilk  
Senate Republican Leader