



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DIGNITY AND POWER NOW SUPPORTS CALIFORNIA SENATE PASSAGE OF BILL
LEGALIZING SAFE, SUPERVISED INJECTION SITES AND OVERDOSE PREVENTION**

*Leading Grassroots Organization Urges California Governor to Sign Bill into Law, Establishing
Pilot Program for Monitored Injections by Medical Professionals, Offering Mental Health
Services and Drug Treatment Options*

Los Angeles, CA-- For the second time in three years, California lawmakers considered a bill to provide necessary, safe, supervised injection sites for opioid drug users. In December 2020, [Senator Scott Wiener](#) (D-San Francisco) introduced [Senate Bill 57](#), legalizing overdose prevention sites in San Francisco, Oakland, and Los Angeles Counties. Last week, the bill was passed by the Senate and now awaits Governor Newsom's signature.

Dignity and Power NOW stands with Los Angeles County Supervisors Sheila Kuehl and Hilda Solis and strongly urges Governor Newsom to sign this bill into law, joining many other states and countries around the world in the fight to create real health-based solutions in response to the opioid crisis.

"Supervised injection sites, or safe consumption sites, while facilitating the safe administering of drugs, also provide comprehensive treatment and support options, and reduce the rate of disease transmission, and other forms of harm related to criminalization. If you look at how successful these programs have been whenever and wherever practiced, then there is no logical reason not to support. At this point the only barrier is the discomfort of those on the outside of the problem," says Lex Stepling, Director of Campaigns and Policy. "This is a much-needed step forward, and will support the already dynamic and successful work of community-based service providers across the state."

Mark-Anthony Clayton-Johnson, founder of Frontline Wellness Network, and Dignity and Power NOW board member also supports the bill, saying, "Instead of incarcerating substance users, instead of state violence or state negligence, the State of California has a responsibility to find ways to reduce these risks. It starts with not blocking good legislation like this. We saw it happen in 2018, we've seen it happen across the country and it hasn't done anything but hurt our community."

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Dignity and Power NOW (DPN) is a Los Angeles based grassroots organization founded in 2012 that fights for the DIGNITY and POWER of all incarcerated people, their families, and communities. Our mission is to build a Black and Brown led abolitionist movement rooted in community power towards the goal of achieving transformative justice and healing justice for all incarcerated people, their families, and communities.