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Law Enforcement Leaders Support Efforts to Curb Prescription Drug Abuse

Sacramento, CA: Legislators and stakeholders today discussed the importance of increasing the use of Abuse-Deterrent Formulas to curb prescription drug abuse. Brent Meyer, Vice President of the Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC), representing 67,000 public safety members and 910 public safety associations testified in support of the measure.

AB 623 by Assemblymember Jim Wood (D- Healdsburg) will assure health service plans not require the use of these drugs without abuse-deterrent properties.

“Unfortunately, I have seen first-hand the terrible impacts of drugs on our society,” Meyer testified in committee. “The problem, tragically, is not isolated to illegal street drugs. We must now contend with the explosion of prescription narcotics making their way onto the streets.”

Opioids may arrive in pill form, but abusers have learned how to crush or dissolve the pills until they can be snorted, smoked, or injected. The manipulation of the original form of the medication is the leading cause of emergency overdoses and death.

“I know and my colleagues in law enforcement know that these abuse deterrent formulations can help us in our communities,” Meyer continued. “The street value of these pills is next to nothing because they cannot be tampered with to create the kind of immediate high many are seeking. This technology is effective and takes away the temptation to steal ADF-enhanced medication for manipulation purposes.”

Assembly Bill 623 was approved by the Assembly Health Committee today and will be heard next in Assembly Business and Professions Committee. PORAC continues to support this very important measure.

The Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC) was incorporated in 1953 as a professional federation of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Today, PORAC represents over 67,000 public safety members and over 915 associations, making it the largest law enforcement organization in California and the largest statewide association in the nation.

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