OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

OCT 08 2023

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 474 without my signature.

This bill would require the State Threat Assessment Center (STAC) to prioritize, to the greatest extent possible, cooperation with state and local efforts to illuminate, disrupt, degrade, and dismantle Transnational Criminal Organizations trafficking opioid drugs that pose a threat to California.

Tackling opioid trafficking by Transnational Criminal Organizations is a priority for my Administration, evidenced by our 2023 Master Plan for Tackling the Fentanyl and Opioid Crisis. We have invested over $1 billion to help stop opioid trafficking and enforce the law, combat overdoses, support those with opioid use disorder, and raise awareness about the dangers of opioids.

The STAC currently has the authority to address and prioritize opioid trafficking, and it already does. Furthermore, the threats facing California are constantly evolving, and law enforcement agencies need flexibility to shift priorities to meet this ever-changing threat landscape. This bill would limit this flexibility, with a detrimental impact on public safety and national security.

For these reasons, I cannot sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom