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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CSAC Responds to the Opioid Settlement**  
*Intrastate Agreement Needed Before Healing Can Begin*

SACRAMENTO – California Counties applaud the \$26 billion national opioid settlement with major drug distributors and Johnson & Johnson announced today, though more work needs to be done before funds are distributed in California. The settlement comes at a critical time to address the addiction and prevention needs of residents, as drug overdose deaths in the U.S. rose nearly 30 percent in 2020, according to preliminary data from the [Centers for Disease Control](#).

“These critical settlement funds are desperately needed to help California’s local communities heal from the severe devastation caused by opioids,” said Graham Knaus, Executive Director of the California State Association of Counties. “We are optimistic and confident that the Attorney General’s Office will negotiate and reach an agreement that provides funding and resources for counties and local communities to address this crisis.”

Without an intrastate allocation agreement, counties cannot access funds from this national settlement, even though they are tasked with providing substance use disorder and prevention services on behalf of the state. California’s cities and counties have been in negotiations with the Attorney General’s office since last year, including thwarting legislative efforts to cut local governments out of the national settlement negotiations. Upon the news of this national settlement, California’s Counties renew their ongoing commitment to work with the California Attorney General to reach an intrastate allocation agreement.

*California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is the voice of California’s 58 counties at the state and federal level.*

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