

[Date]

Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson
State Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814
Sent by Fax: (916) 651-4919

SUBJECT: SENATE BILL 1014 (JACKSON) – SAFE MEDICATION MANAGEMENT - **SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Jackson:

[Your name or organization] strongly supports Senate Bill (SB) 1014 (Jackson), as amended on April 21st which would require CalRecycle to adopt regulations reauthorizing local entities to establish a voluntary program to collect and properly dispose of home-generated pharmaceutical waste. The regulations would be based on the Model Guidelines issued by CalRecycle in 2009 that allow local entities to operate voluntary drug take-back programs. The Guidelines expired in 2013, but by reauthorizing and updating them, SB 1014 will provide clear direction for local governments, pharmacies and police departments that would like to operate safe and secure pharmaceutical take-back programs

[Tell your organization's story about how it has been impacted by this problem – e.g., amount of pharma waste you've collected; annual labor, other costs to collect and dispose.]

The Problem:

Prescription drug abuse has skyrocketed in recent years,¹ as have hospitalizations for drug overdoses.² One of the four top recommendations of the National Strategy on Preventing Prescription Drug Abuse is to have a safe and convenient method of disposal for prescription, over the counter drugs and vet medicines we have in our homes. In addition, the lack of safe and convenient disposal options ensures that consumers choose less than desirable options including home storage, flushing medications down the toilet or throwing them in the garbage.

The Solution:

SB 1014, as amended will re-establish and update CalRecycle's Model Guidelines for the safe collection and disposal of medicines. In addition, the bill would provide clarity to existing the law, by specifically authorizing pharmacies to accept the return of home-generated pharmaceutical waste, should they decide to do so.

For these reasons, the **[your organization]** supports SB 1014, as amended. If you have any questions about our position, please contact **[name, title]**, at **[phone/email]**.

Sincerely,

[Name, Title, Organization]

cc: The Honorable Assemblymember Alejo, Chair of the ESTM committee Fax: (916) 319-3950

¹ California State Task Force on Prescription Drug Misuse. (2009, March 30). Summary Report and Recommendations on Prescription Drugs: Misuse, Abuse and Dependency. Retrieved from State of California Alcohol and Drug Programs:

www.adp.ca.gov/director/pdf/Prescription_Drug_Task_Force.pdf

² O'Callaghan, T. (2010, April 6). More people hospitalized for prescription drug overdose. Retrieved from Time: <http://healthland.time.com/2010/04/06/more-people-hospitalized-for-prescription-drug-overdose/#ixzz2fkIm3CMT>