

June 7, 2010

Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Chair  
Energy & Commerce Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2204 Rayburn  
House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: H.R. 1191, the Safe Drug Disposal Act of 2009

Dear Chairman Waxman and Members of the Energy & Commerce Committee:

We, the undersigned organizations and individuals, urge the Energy & Commerce Committee to consider and support H.R. 1191, The Safe Drug Disposal Act, introduced by Congressman Inslee. We urge the Committee to expedite this statutory change to the Controlled Substances Act so that the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) can create new regulations governing safe, convenient, cost-effective drug take-back programs.

Legally prescribed controlled substances comprise roughly 11% of all prescription medicines. Left lingering in homes, tossed in the garbage, or flushed down toilets, these drugs may be taken accidentally or intentionally abused, or could contaminate waterways. H.R. 1191 amends the Controlled Substances Act to provide additional legal avenues for safe, convenient, cost-effective disposal of controlled substances by patients and caretakers through drug take-back programs. H.R. 1191 would:

- Remove the current requirement that law enforcement officers be involved in the normal operations of residential drug take-back programs. This adds cost, places burdens on local police and sheriffs, and is not necessary for safe and secure drug take-back programs.
- Allow a broad range of caretakers to dispose of controlled substances through drug take-back programs, including: patients, family members or friends who act as caregivers, hospice workers, long term care facilities, boarding homes for the elderly, school nurses, and veterinarians. All of these people may have drugs they need to dispose of due to illness or providing care.
- Ensure that federal requirements allow drug take-back programs to be designed and operated conveniently and cost-effectively to meet the needs of our diverse communities. Federal requirements should allow a range of collection options, including drop-off at easily accessible locations such as pharmacies, and avoid burdensome requirements that do not enhance security or effectiveness, such as inventorying collected medicines.
- Ensure environmentally sound disposal of waste medicines by means other than flushing down sinks or toilets or disposing in a municipal solid waste landfill.

We urge the Committee to take action on H.R. 1191 and move it forward as quickly as possible to a floor vote. Action on H.R. 1191 is a critical step to support our state and community level efforts to ensure that unneeded controlled substances and other medications are securely collected from homes and disposed of safely through drug take-back programs.

Sincerely,

Angie Montes Truesdale, Director, Public Policy  
National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization

Ken Kirk, Executive Director  
NACWA (The National Association of Clean  
Water Agencies)

Anna Gilmore Hall, RN, CAE, Executive  
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Health Care Without Harm

Paul Ritter, Coordinator  
National Prescription Pill and Drug Disposal  
Program (P2D2 Program)

Ed Hopkins, Environmental Quality Director  
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Jeff Ruch, Executive Director  
Public Employees for Environmental  
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Gina Grappone, Executive Director  
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Bill Sheehan, Executive Director  
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LeeAnne Beres, Executive Director  
Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power &  
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Dan Connolly, Pharmacy Project Manager  
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Pharmacy Clinical Services  
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Representative Dawn Morrell  
25th Legislative District  
Washington State House of Representatives



Senator Adam Kline  
37<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Washington State Senate



Representative Paul Gardner  
District 53A  
Minnesota State House of Representatives

Karen Valenzuela, Chair Board of Health  
Thurston County Board of Commissioners, WA

Cathy Wolfe, Vice-Chair Board of Health  
Thurston County Board of Commissioners, WA

Sandra Romero, Commissioner Board of Health  
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Jim Cooper, Vice President of Communication  
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Lisa Butler, Director of Public Policy/Outreach  
Washington State Hospice and Palliative Care  
Organization

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Heather Shute, Advocate  
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Suellen Mele, Program Director  
Washington Citizens for Resource Conservation

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King County Department of Natural Resources  
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Jay Watson, PhD, Program Administrator  
Local Hazardous Waste Management Program  
in King County, WA

Susan Sheary, Chair  
King County Democratic Central Committee,  
WA

Anthony L-T Chen, MD, MPH, Director of  
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Rob Nou, Deputy Sheriff  
San Juan County, WA

Patric Slack, Commander  
Snohomish Regional Drug Task Force, WA

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Angela Lausch, Affordable Housing Coordinator  
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Kevin Sholz, Director  
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Cc:

Congressman John D. Dingell  
Congressman Edward J. Markey  
Congressman Rick Boucher  
Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Congressman Bart Gordon  
Congressman Bobby L. Rush  
Congresswoman Anna G. Eshoo  
Congressman Bart Stupak  
Congressman Eliot L. Engel  
Congressman Gene Green  
Congresswoman Diana DeGette  
Congresswoman Lois Capps  
Congressman Mike Doyle  
Congresswoman Jane Harman  
Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky  
Congressman Charles A. Gonzalez  
Congressman Jay Inslee  
Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin  
Congressman Mike Ross  
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Congressman Jim Matheson  
Congressman G.K. Butterfield  
Congressman Charlie Melancon  
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Congresswoman Sue Wilkins Myrick  
Congressman John Sullivan  
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Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn  
Congressman Phil Gingrey  
Congressman Steve Scalise  
Congressman Parker Griffith  
Congressman Robert Latta