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LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/  
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE  
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August 25, 2016

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
Governor, State of California  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

**SIGNATURE REQUEST: SENATE BILL 1229: PHARMACIES: DRUG TAKE-BACK BINS (ENROLLED AUGUST 22, 2016)**

The Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/Integrated Waste Management Task Force (Task Force) respectfully requests your signature on Senate Bill 1229 (SB 1229). If enacted, SB 1229 would remove unnecessary civil liability from pharmacies that own or operate a public drug take-back bin in a responsible manner and without compensation, thereby increasing convenience for the public to safely dispose of unwanted medications.

The Task Force wholly supports efforts to provide for proper collection and management of home-generated pharmaceutical wastes to protect public health & safety as well as our water resources and the environment. Pharmacists who host drug take-back bins need to be able to receive protection from undue civil liability if they follow the rules called for by the SB 1229 for the following important reasons:

- 1) The U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency has established clear regulations on hosting drug take-back bins. Furthermore, the proactive cities and counties in multiple regions of the State have now adopted, or are in the process of adopting, extended producer responsibility (EPR) based ordinances establishing pharmaceutical take-back programs. As such, this bill will protect pharmacists and pharmacy chain stores that provide an integral community service of providing safe and convenient drug take-back bins to the public subject to compliance with requirements of the bill.
- 2) The National Governor's Associations Policy Academy on Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention identified safe drug management as a key component of the Prescription Drug Abuse Plan in 2014.

- 3) California's water resources are precious, particularly given the prolonged drought conditions that still significantly distress the State; pollution prevention is a much more cost effective remedy to this problem, and others, such as wastewater treatment, so preventing improper/illegal disposal and flushing of medications remains a key strategy in the State's long term-goals for sustainable waste management, which includes EPR.

Pursuant to Chapter 3.67 of the Los Angeles County Code and the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (Assembly Bill 939 [AB 939], as amended), the Task Force is responsible for coordinating the development of all major solid waste planning documents prepared for the County of Los Angeles and the 88 cities in Los Angeles County with a combined population in excess of ten million. Consistent with these responsibilities and to ensure a coordinated and cost-effective and environmentally sound solid waste management system in Los Angeles County, the Task Force also addresses issues impacting the system on a countywide basis. The Task Force membership includes representatives of the League of California Cities-Los Angeles County Division, County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, City of Los Angeles, waste management industry, environmental groups, the public, and a number of other governmental agencies.

Based on the foregoing, the Task Force is confident SB 1229 would effectively assist in accomplishing the goals discussed herewith and respectfully requests your signature on this legislation. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Mike Mohajer, a Member of the Task Force, at [MikeMohajer@yahoo.com](mailto:MikeMohajer@yahoo.com) or (909) 592-1147.

Sincerely,



Margaret Clark, Vice-Chair  
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/  
Integrated Waste management Task Force and  
Council Member, City of Rosemead

JJ:kk

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cc: Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson  
Senator Jeff Stone  
Graciela Castillo-Krings, Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
California State Association of Counties  
League of California Cities  
Each Member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
Chief Executive Officer, County of los Angeles (Sachi A. Hamai)

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County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health (Cynthia Harding, Angello Bellomo)

San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

San Fernando Valley Council of Governments

Gateway Cities Council of Governments

Westside Cities Council of Governments

League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division

California Product Stewardship Council

Each City Mayor and City Manager in the County of Los Angeles

Each City Recycling Coordinator in Los Angeles County

Each Member of the Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force