

Lenzi, Chelsea

Subject: FW: Letter of support for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Drug Disposal Ordinance

From: Sharon Byrne [<mailto:sharon@mcasb.org>]

Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2016 7:18 PM

To: Carbajal, Salud; Wolf, Janet; Farr, Doreen; Adam, Peter; Lavagnino, Steve

Cc: Weber, Erin; Doyel, John; Gleghorn, Alice; Garcia, Lucero; Jim Laponis; Chris Burtness; sharon497; kati smith; James Rhode

Subject: Letter of support for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Drug Disposal Ordinance

To: Board of Supervisors, Santa Barbara County

From: Santa Barbara County Advisory Board on Alcohol and Other Drugs

Date: March 10, 2016

Re: Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Drug Disposal Ordinance

To the Board of Supervisors:

The Advisory Board on Alcohol and Other Drugs has been working actively on the issue of prescription drug disposal since 2012. To date we have:

1. Conducted prescription drug forums across Santa Barbara County to educate the public on problems related to these drugs, including disposal.
2. Supported Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson's bill SB1014 in 2014 that would have regulated these industries within California and provided a safe method for disposal while shifting the costs to producers of these drugs. Her office made regular updates to our advisory board on the progress of that bill, and we were disappointed when it died in committee.
3. Supported every US Drug Enforcement Agency Prescription Take-Back Day held in our county, usually twice annually, in an effort to raise public awareness on this topic. Locally, these operations are conducted by law enforcement under Operation Medicine Cabinet.
4. Contacted the Drug Enforcement Agency when it became apparent they were not conducting Prescription Take-Back anymore in 2015.
5. Worked with Supervisor Farr's office beginning in 2015 to support a county-led effort to safely dispose of unwanted and unused prescription drugs. We believe it's essential to shift the cost burden away from county taxpayers and onto the producers of such drugs sold in our county. We must also protect our environment, as prescription drug components have turned up in water tables and other environmental indicators.

We have followed the efforts, and subsequent legal proceedings, of Alameda County as they have implemented a county effort to handle prescription drug disposal. We support a similar effort here, and are pleased to see the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Drug Disposal Ordinance making its way forward for your review.

We recognize the ordinance is currently in progress and not finalized, and as such, we cannot comment as to its specifics. However, it's long been our view that the county requires a safe and consistent drug disposal mechanism, a way to safeguard our environment from these drugs, and a way to remove the burden of cost of disposal from county taxpayers. It's our understanding that the ordinance proposed achieves these goals.

We therefore extend our support, by unanimous vote, for the concept behind the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

Drug Disposal Ordinance, and support Supervisor Farr's efforts to bring it to fruition.

Kind regards,

Sharon Byrne

Chair, Advisory Board on Alcohol and Other Drug Problems