

SafeLaunch
PO Box 21055
Santa Barbara CA 93121



June 6, 2016

To: Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors,

On behalf of SafeLaunch, I am writing to request that you support the “Producer Responsibility” Safe Drug Disposal Ordinance.

SafeLaunch is a Santa Barbara County based addiction prevention initiative that supports any and all reasonable efforts to reduce or delay teen exposure to intoxicants of any kind. According to CASA at Columbia University, the undeveloped teen brain is up to 600% more susceptible to the disease of addiction than an adult’s, and this research drives our mission.

For the past forty-plus years, 98% of resources fighting drug abuse have been directed toward law enforcement, the prison industry and in rare cases, treatment. And yet, we are losing more than 130 Americans a day to drug overdose, and hundreds more to the accidents and crimes resulting from the symptoms of addiction. As community leaders, we must unite to protect all children from preventable disease.

Asking pharmacies and hospitals to host collection bins for unused and expired medications is a step in the right direction. In addition, SafeLaunch believes much more needs to be done to protect our youth:

1. All adults holding occupations that cause them to work closely with minors should be randomly drug tested, just as pilots, truck drivers and thousands of other safety-first workers are.
2. Parents of school aged children should be offered random student drug testing on a non-punitive basis because early detection saves lives.
3. Vigorous prosecution of anyone who provides an intoxicant to a minor should be a top priority for law enforcement.
4. Knowing that many individuals keep leftover prescription opioid medications “just in case”, a concerted public awareness campaign reminding people to lock up their intoxicating medications (and alcohol) is needed.

Preventing addiction in our next generation is something we can all get behind. It really does “take a village” to get the job done. *There is no single strategy or program that will cut the high addiction rate of our youth, but SafeLaunch is happy to support this “Producer Responsibility” Safe Drug Disposal Ordinance.*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Rowse".

Janet Rowse
President and Co-Founder