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California State Legislature

SENATOR
HANNAH-BETH JACKSON
NINETEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



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JOINT COMMITTEE ON ARTS

Oct. 5, 2015

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
C/O Board Clerk
105 E. Anapamu St., Room 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: Supporting local efforts to extend producer responsibility

Chairwoman Wolf and Supervisors:

I'm writing to again express my strong support for local efforts within Santa Barbara County to pursue a sustainable program for the safe disposal of pharmaceutical products.

This is an issue that has faced significant challenges at the state level. During the past two years, I have worked with numerous stakeholders to develop legislation that would create a convenient and environmentally responsible home-generated prescription drug disposal program. These efforts included my hosting several large stakeholder meetings, working with legislative consultants, and meeting with hundreds of individuals with an interest in the safe handling and disposal of unused medications. During that time, I introduced two bills, SB 727 (2013) and SB 1014 (2014) in response to the feedback I received to help decrease the supply of unused prescription drugs in homes across California. Unfortunately, the climate in Sacramento is not currently favorable to passing such a measure on a statewide basis.

In order to continue to move this crucial issue forward in our state it is imperative for local governments like Santa Barbara County to help by taking steps in adopting a county ordinance similar to Alameda County's Safe Drug Disposal ordinance or that of the City and County of San Francisco. Such a policy will help California residents prevent prescription drug abuse, address their disposal needs now, and increase support for a statewide solution.

The need for safe medication disposal options has never been greater. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, in 2014 more than \$29.7 billion worth of prescription drugs were filled at pharmacies in California. Other reports estimate that up to one-third of prescribed medicines are not consumed and need to be disposed of safely.

I respectfully urge you to consider introducing a safe drug disposal ordinance in Santa Barbara County to demonstrate your support for, and commitment to, addressing this problem. Until a cohesive statewide strategy is established, the most effective way to help prevent the risk of accidental poisoning and abuse of unused medications in Santa Barbara County is to increase disposal options through the adoption of an ordinance. I hope you will give this important public safety and environmental issue your most serious consideration.

If you do decide to adopt such a measure, you would be in good company. Alameda County, the City and County of San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and others have all adopted such an ordinance, and several other counties are in discussions to enact similar measures.

I appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this important issue and look forward to working with you in the future to continue to improve our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hannah-Beth Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

HANNAH-BETH JACKSON
State Senator, 19th District