



**King County**  
**King County Councilmember Joe McDermott**

Hilda L. Solis, Chair  
Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street, Room 383  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Via Fax: (213) 613-1739

May 16, 2016

Dear Chair Solis and Honorable Members of the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors:

I respectfully urge your approval of the Pharmaceutical Drugs and Sharps Collection and Disposal Stewardship Ordinance. Overdoses are a leading cause of preventable death in our country. Takeback programs like the one you're considering are a critical tool to curbing this epidemic – and protecting the lives of many.

Implementation of King County's Secure Medicine Return Regulations is currently underway. Following adoption of the secure medicine return regulations by the King County Board of Health, King County MED-Project was approved to operate a stewardship program on behalf of the 380 drug producers they represent. The program will provide a collection system available in every city, town and unincorporated area of the county. When the program is in operation, residents will be encouraged to bring leftover, expired and unwanted medicines, including controlled substances, to secure drop-boxes located in pharmacies and law enforcement offices. Mail-back envelopes will also be available for differentially-abled and homebound residents to safely dispose of their unwanted medicines.

I am pleased that drug manufacturers came forward and are working with King County to begin medicine collection this summer. The same is possible for LA County. Together, we will reduce access to the medicines that can be misused leading to abuse, preventable poisonings and overdose deaths.

Sincerely,

Joe McDermott  
Chair, King County Council

Cc:

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Supervisor Don Knabe, Fax (213) 626-6941

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