

# California State Senate

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SENATOR  
**BENJAMIN ALLEN**

TWENTY-SIXTH SENATE DISTRICT



January 21, 2016

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

**SUBJECT: LOS ANGELES COUNTY PHARMACEUTICALS AND SHARPS COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL STEWARDSHIP  
ORDINANCE- SUPPORT**

Dear Supervisor Solis:

I am writing in support of Los Angeles County's efforts to adopt an ordinance which would require the development of Stewardship Plans to address the collection and disposal of unwanted/unused pharmaceuticals and sharps waste generated by residents; and urge the Board of Supervisors to vote to adopt the County's draft ordinance.

The Ordinance is important because it establishes a sustainably financed program that will provide residents with a convenient means to safely dispose of unwanted sharps and pharmaceuticals in the midst of an ever increasing abuse of unwanted medicines and used needles (sharps) occurring in municipalities throughout California. Enactment of the ordinance will help prevent unwanted medicines and sharps from entering the environment, reduce their availability for drug abuse and misuse, and reduce injuries associated with sharps being improperly disposed. With the creation of safe and convenient disposal options, combined with a robust outreach and education program, residents will be educated regarding appropriate collection and disposal methods as well as where and how to participate in proper end-of life disposal "take-back" practices.

The passage of this ordinance would ensure that manufacturers and producers of prescription and nonprescription drugs and sharps share in the responsibility of proper disposal of their products. I support this shared responsibility approach. The cost of managing these materials at the end of their life should no longer be borne solely by local jurisdictions.

I understand the County has conducted multiple stakeholder meetings, which included representatives from the manufacturers and producers of these materials, retailers, pharmacies, consumer advocacy groups, environmental organizations, waste hauling industry, and others in order to develop the most effective possible Ordinance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Allen". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Senator Ben Allen, Senate District 26

cc: County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich  
Sachi A. Hamai, Chief Executive Officer  
Angelo J. Bellomo, EPR Working Group