



# Board of Supervisors

Nathan A. Miley  
Supervisor, District 4

Oakland Office  
1221 Oak Street, Suite 536  
Oakland, CA 94612  
510-272-6694/510-465-7628 Facsimile

Eden Area District Office  
20980 Redwood Road Suite 250  
Castro Valley, CA 94546  
510-670-5717/510-537-7289 Facsimile

Pleasanton District Office  
4501 Pleasanton Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Pleasanton, CA 94566  
925-803-7959

[district4@acgov.org](mailto:district4@acgov.org)

March 16, 2016

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors:

I encourage you to enact ordinances similar to Alameda County's ordinances on safe drug and sharps disposal. The ordinances that Supervisor Keith Carson and I have championed are essential to protecting public health and the environment. According to a United Nations 2011 World Report, the United States comprises 5% of the world's population but consumes 75% of the prescription drug inventory.<sup>1</sup> According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention, prescription painkiller misuse and overdose is a national epidemic.<sup>2</sup> In January, President Obama mentioned the problem in his final State of the Union Address,<sup>3</sup> and then posted on social media that, "120 Americans die every day from drug overdoses, most involving legal prescription drugs."<sup>4</sup>

The Safe Drug Disposal Ordinance in our County helps to solve medication diversion through the concept of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). The pharmaceutical industries will try to sway you to adopt different ordinances that do not focus on EPR. Similar safe drug disposal ordinances have been functioning in Canada, Mexico, most of Europe and some South American countries for many years with great success. The pharmaceutical companies are not naïve to EPR and how to work with local governments and other stakeholders. Please stand with other California counties and King County, Washington who fought for the right for local government to lead and innovate on producer designed and operated systems and adopt ordinances on safe drug and sharps disposal.

Prior to hearing your proposed ordinance on Tuesday, March 29, Bill Pollock of Alameda County Environmental Health is available for questions about the success and effectiveness of Alameda County's ordinances. Bill can be reached at 510.670.6460 and/or [bill.pollock@acgov.org](mailto:bill.pollock@acgov.org). Also, I welcome the opportunity for your office to contact me personally.

Thank you,



Nate Miley, Supervisor  
Alameda County, District 4

cc:

Angelo Bellomo, Director of Environmental Health, Los Angeles County  
Jacqueline Taylor, Director of Bureau of Environmental Protection, Los Angeles County

<sup>1</sup> Retrieved from <https://www.drugabuse.gov/related-topics/trends-statistics/infographics/popping-pills-prescription-drug-abuse-in-america>

<sup>2</sup> Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/>

<sup>3</sup> Retrieved from <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/01/12/remarks-president-barack-obama-%E2%80%93-prepared-delivery-state-union-address>

<sup>4</sup> Retrieved from <https://twitter.com/potus/status/656889814201991168?lang=en&lang=en>