"Our Business Is Picking Up"

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Hilda L. Solis, Chair, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor, First District
500 West Temple Street, Room 856
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Via email to FirstDistrict@bos.lacounty.gov and EPR@LACOUNTY.GOV

SUBJECT: Support for Los Angeles County Pharmaceuticals and Sharps EPR Ordinance

Dear Board Chair Solis:

I am writing to express my support for creating a county wide stewardship program for the safe and convenient disposal of unwanted medicines from households. Almost all of us have leftover or expired medicines in our homes, and many of us also have needles (medical sharps). We need a secure and safe way to dispose of these drugs and needles to protect our families and protect our environment.
I'm concerned about the epidemic of prescription drug abuse in my community, and how our home medicine cabinets have become the new drug dealers for our kids. Drug abuse is a complex problem, and a secure system for collecting leftover and expired medicines from households is an important part of the solution. I'm also concerned when needles from syringes aren't handled properly, putting our families and garbage/recycling workers at risk of dangerous needle sticks and infections.

We appreciate the sheriff collection sites for medicines or for sharps in the county but they are not convenient, there are not enough of them and they're not easy enough to find and I don't want our law enforcement burdened with managing a health care industry product – the hospitals, doctors, pharmacies and drug companies should all share in the cost and responsibility to ensure safe management of these products. We also need more public education to not flush or trash and instead use the collection system.

It's time to ensure that all communities in our county have safe and convenient take-back locations for pharmaceuticals and sharps. To me, it just makes sense to have the manufacturers of the medicines and sharps provide a stewardship program for their products, just like they already do in other countries like Canada and Mexico.

I support L.A. County ordinance and I ask the Board of Supervisors to pass it.

Sincerely,

Alan Marchant

Alan Marchant
President

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