



Oregon District Attorneys Association, Inc.

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March 21, 2019

TO: Honorable Andrea Salinas, Chair
Members of the House Committee on Health Care

FROM: Tim Colahan, Executive Director, Oregon District Attorneys Association

RE: HB 3273

Oregon District Attorneys Support HB 3273

Unused prescription drugs in a home's medicine cabinet can present a significant public health and safety concern. These medications, if not properly disposed of, can lead to abuse and accidental poisonings. Oregon's current system for collecting unwanted prescription drugs relies heavily on law enforcement agencies. Many citizens are unaware of these disposal opportunities, are not comfortable with disposing of medications at a police station, or are not likely to use this infrastructure as the hours of operation are typically limited.

in 2014, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration adopted rules that authorized additional entities, including pharmacies, to collect unused prescription drugs which can then be shipped for ultimate safe disposal. HB 3273 will establish a statewide prescription drug take-back program to enhance access to safe and responsible disposal opportunities:

- The bill requires prescription drug manufacturer's to establish and fund a statewide drug take-back program.
- The drug take-back program will provide convenient service in every county in this state.
- The system would support increased access to drop-off sites, many of which would be located in pharmacies. This will provide Oregonians with enhanced convenience and increased visibility for unused prescription drugs to be safely discarded.
- The system will also include an outreach program to educate consumers on the safe and secure storage of medications, the inherent risks of improperly storing or disposing of opioids or opiates, and to discourage disposal of covered drugs in the garbage or sewer system.

Vote yes on HB 3273.