

June 3, 2010

Congressman Paul Ryan  
1113 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: H.R. 1191, the Safe Drug Disposal Act of 2009

Dear Congressman Ryan:

I write to express Waukesha County's support for H.R. 1191, The Safe Drug Disposal Act, introduced by Congressman Inslee. We urge the Energy and Commerce Committee to expedite this statutory change to the Controlled Substances Act so that the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) can create new regulations governing safe, convenient, cost-effective drug take-back programs.

Legally prescribed controlled substances comprise roughly 11% of all prescription medicines. Left lingering in homes, tossed in the garbage, or flushed down toilets, these drugs may be taken accidentally or intentionally abused, or could contaminate waterways. H.R. 1191 amends the Controlled Substances Act to provide additional legal avenues for safe, convenient, cost-effective disposal of controlled substances by patients and caretakers through drug take-back programs. H.R. 1191 would:

- Remove the current requirement that law enforcement officers be involved in the normal operations of residential drug take-back programs. This requirement adds cost, places burdens on local police and sheriffs, and is not necessary for safe and secure drug take-back programs.
- Allow a broad range of caretakers to dispose of controlled substances through drug take-back programs, including patients, family members or friends who act as caregivers, hospice workers, long-term care facilities, boarding homes for the elderly, school nurses, and veterinarians who all may have drugs they need to dispose of due to illness or providing care.
- Ensure that federal requirements allow drug take-back programs to be designed and operated conveniently and cost-effectively to meet the needs of our diverse communities. Federal requirements should allow a range of collection options, including drop-off at easily accessible locations such as pharmacies and mail-back programs and avoid burdensome requirements that do not enhance security or effectiveness, such as inventorying collected medicines.
- Ensure environmentally sound disposal of waste medicines by means other than flushing down sinks or toilets or disposing in a municipal solid waste landfills.

Congressman Paul Ryan  
Page 2  
June 3, 2010

Waukesha County has been a partner in several medicine take-back programs, including a pilot mail-back program with a reverse distribution company and several one-day collection events. Residents want to participate but barriers in current DEA regulations prevent ongoing, convenient options for safe disposal of controlled substances. I urge the Committee to take action on H.R. 1191 and move it forward as quickly as possible to a floor vote. Action on H.R. 1191 is a critical step to support our state and community efforts to ensure that unneeded controlled substances and other medications are securely collected from homes and disposed of safely through drug take-back programs.

Sincerely,

Daniel P. Vrakas  
County Executive

cc: Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Chair  
Energy & Commerce Committee,  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Congressman John D. Dingell  
Congressman Edward J. Markey  
Congressman Rick Boucher  
Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Congressman Bart Gordon  
Congressman Bobby L. Rush  
Congresswoman Anna G. Eshoo  
Congressman Bart Stupak  
Congressman Eliot L. Engel  
Congressman Gene Green  
Congresswoman Diana DeGette  
Congresswoman Lois Capps  
Congressman Mike Doyle  
Congresswoman Jane Harman  
Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky  
Congressman Charles A. Gonzalez  
Congressman Jay Inslee  
Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin  
Congressman Mike Ross  
Congressman Anthony D. Weiner  
Congressman Jim Matheson  
Congressman G.K. Butterfield  
Congressman Charlie Melancon  
Congressman John Barrow  
Congressman Baron P. Hill  
Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui  
Congresswoman Donna M. Christensen  
Congresswoman Kathy Castor  
Congressman John P. Sarbanes  
Congressman Christopher S. Murphy

Congressman Paul Ryan

Page 3

June 3, 2010

cc:     Congressman Zachary T. Space  
          Congressman Jerry McNerney  
          Congresswoman Betty Sutton  
          Congressman Bruce L. Braley  
          Congressman Peter Welch  
          Congressman Joe Barton  
          Congressman Ralph M. Hall  
          Congressman Fred Upton  
          Congressman Cliff Stearns  
          Congressman Ed Whitfield  
          Congressman John Shimkus  
          Congressman John B. Shadegg  
          Congressman Roy Blunt  
          Congressman Steve Buyer  
          Congressman George Radanovich  
          Congressman Joseph R. Pitts  
          Congresswoman Mary Bono Mack  
          Congressman Greg Walden  
          Congressman Lee Terry  
          Congressman Mike Rogers  
          Congresswoman Sue Wilkins Myrick  
          Congressman John Sullivan  
          Congressman Tim Murphy  
          Congressman Michael C. Burgess  
          Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn  
          Congressman Phil Gingrey  
          Congressman Steve Scalise  
          Congressman Parker Griffith  
          Congressman Robert Latta