

12 MAY 24 PM 4: 54

CITY OF OAKLAND



CITY HALL • ONE FRANK H. OGAWA PLAZA • OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94612

JANE BRUNNER
Councilmember
District 1

(510) 238-7001
FAX (510) 238-6910
TTD (510) 238-7413

To: Chair Reid and Members of the Rules and Legislation Committee
From: Councilmembers Brunner and Brooks
Date: March 13, 2012
Re: Resolution Of Support For Extended Producer Responsibility And The Alameda County Safe Medication Disposal Ordinance, Which Would Require Producers Selling Pharmaceutical Drugs In Alameda County To Participate In A Drug Stewardship Program

This resolution is in support of the Alameda County Safe Medication Disposal Ordinance, which would require producers selling pharmaceutical drugs in Alameda County to participate in a medication take-back program.

The goal of the legislation is to reduce prescription misuse by seniors and teens, expand local medication collection sites in the county and prevent discarded drugs from entering our waterways and landfills

Unused and expired medications are an increasing concern for public health and safety, particularly for senior citizens and youth. Poisoning is the fastest rising cause of accidental death among older adults in Alameda County, particularly from overdoses of prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications. The Partnership for a Drug-Free America released a report in February 2010, indicating that over 60% of teens are able to obtain prescription painkillers for free through family and friends.

In addition, pharmaceutical residues have been accumulating in groundwater and drinking water. Drugs enter the environment through multiple sources including flushing toilets or through leachate leaks in landfills. The cost of developing waste treatment for wastewater is extremely high. Thus, many drugs pass through wastewater treatment systems and contaminate receiving waters.

Currently no state or federal program exists to safely collect unwanted drugs and to properly dispose of them. Alameda County will be the first in the nation to make pharmaceutical manufacturers take responsibility for the entire lifespan of their products. The ordinance requires drug manufacturers to provide a medication take-back program, as they do in other countries including Canada, Spain and France.

Manufacturers and producers of drugs are required to finance and operate the collection of unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications for proper disposal without charging additional fees to consumers. The product stewardship programs proposed by the producers of drugs will be reviewed, approved and enforced by the Department of Environmental Health.

We recommend that the Rules and Legislation Committee support this resolution.

Item _____
Rules and Legislation Committee
Thursday, May 31, 2012