

Establishing A State-Wide Drug Take Back Program in Oregon

Endorsed by:

AARP - Oregon
Allcare Health
Association of Clean Water Agencies
Association of Oregon Counties
Association of Oregon Recyclers
Bring Recycling
City of Eugene
City of Hillsboro
City of Portland
Clackamas County
Clean Water Services
Coalition of Local Health Officials
CODA, Inc
Columbia County
Lane County
League of Oregon Cities
Marion County
Metro
OHSU Section of Addiction Medicine
Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police
Oregon Coalition of the Responsible
Use of Medicines
Oregon District Attorneys Association
Oregon Environmental Council
Oregon Nurses Association
Oregon Prevention Education and
Recovery Association
Oregon Public Health Association
Oregon Society of Health-System
Pharmacists
Oregon State Pharmacy Association
Oregon State Sheriffs' Association
Oregon Water Utility Council
Tri-County Hazardous Waste and
Recycling Program
Providence Health and Services
Umatilla County
Wasco County
Washington County

The Problem:

Unused prescription drugs in our homes can present a significant public health and safety concern. These medications, if not properly disposed of, can lead to abuse and accidental poisonings. **According to the Oregon Health Authority, there has been a 450 percent increase in the number of deaths from prescription drug overdoses in the last 10 years.**

Oregon's current system for collecting unwanted prescription drugs relies heavily on law enforcement agencies. While the current system plays a vital role in keeping prescription drugs out of the wrong hands and helps prevent Oregonians from improper disposal, it is inconvenient, and underutilized. Many citizens are unaware of these disposal opportunities, are uncomfortable with disposing of medications at police stations, or are unable to dispose of their unwanted, unused, or expired drugs during normal business hours.

The Solution:

Luckily, 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. **These new DEA regulations provide states the opportunity to create local programs to responsibly dispose of unused or unwanted medications.** Following these changes in regulations, Representative Sheri Malstrom, with the support of our listed endorsers, introduced Oregon HB 2645: the drug take back bill.

HB 2645 would establish a state-wide drug take back program that:

- Requires prescription drug manufacturers to provide funding for the program,
- Supports increased access to drug collection kiosks in our local pharmacies, making kiosks more visible and convenient to safely discard unused medications,
- Includes 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 discouraging disposal of covered drugs in the garbage or sewer system, and
- Provides a mail back option for frontier counties that have fewer than 20,000 residents.

Oregon Can be a Leader

Since the introduction of HB 2645 in 2017 **three states have approved state-wide drug disposal bills: Washington, California, and New York, all with strong bipartisan support.** Following the success of these programs, Oregon can be a leader and join in establishing a statewide drug take back program that allows Oregonians to responsibly dispose of opioids and other prescription drugs at their local pharmacy—effectively making opioids as easy to dispose of as they are to obtain.





For more information please contact the legislative office of State Representative Sheri Malstrom: (503) 986-1427