

Oregon House Committee on Health Care

I strongly support HB 2645 Drug Take Back Program. Customer Convince and Funding is the Keys for the Drug Take Back Program to Work. All Oregonians should have a simple, safe way to disposal of old or un-used Prescription and Over the Counter Drugs. I currently have an over abundance of drugs that I have had an allergic reaction from taking. I have received by drugs at Walmart for many years. I should be able to bring my un-used pharmaceuticals back to where I purchased them. But, it should not matter as to where the drugs were purchased. There should be easy access for all customers to recycle at any Pharmacy that dispense drugs. The collection points should have easy access. Any Pharmacy or other appropriate location in Oregon should be provided participation in the Oregon Drug Take Back Program.

All Pharmaceutical Manufactures should pay a percent of every drug sale to finance the Oregon Drug Take Back Program. This could be collected at point of sale of any drug. The Pharmacy would then keep an amount for the shipping and handling. The balance would send the collected monthly amounts to the Oregon Revenue Dept. Then, to be distributed to the Oregon Health Administration for Drug Take Back programs administration expenses and necessary regulation monitoring to make sure drugs are destroyed. There has to be some kind of a system to make sure that the old drugs do not get to the Black Market and are properly destroyed. Penalties should be increased for illegal sales of Prescription Drugs on the Black Market. There are hospital and clinic drug identification monitoring systems that could be better utilized to identify patient's using illegal Black Market Drugs. I understand why it happens, but I Absolutely Do Not Condone Black Market Pharmaceuticals. Mixed with Alcohol and it is a Cocktail of Death. We are going to have to find ways to reduce the Black Market Pharmaceutical Drugs access. Having a program that provides: Easy to Return, No Questions Asked, Thank you for Participating, We will make sure they are Destroyed Properly, will Save Lives in Oregon.

Not only will an Easy Drug Take Back Program Save Human Lives. It will Save Oregon Watersheds and Species, too. Drug Take Back Programs will prevent contamination by People tossing their un-used and left over pharmaceuticals in the Trash, Down the Toilet, or Building Up in an old dresser draw or cabinet. People are breaking into houses and taking drugs for Black Market profits. Imagine their joy, when the thieves come across an old stash of Drugs, they can sell on the Black Market. Oregon's Drug Take Back Program will help lessen, eliminated a larger percentage of Drugs getting to the illegal Black Market. But, many times it is your Children or Grand Children that take the old drugs. Some for their own use or their friends, or to make a little extra cash selling them in our schools. With no regards as to the side effects, much less the consequences of taking unknown prescription drugs. I remember that the kids would go buy or steal No Doze Caffeine pills, in the 1970's. Some of the kids would take so many that they almost over dosed.

Years ago Lincoln County DA ask Communities for help with pain killers control. I clearly stated that Pharmacies would have to report Oxycontin usage with names, to the

State of Oregon to prevent a patient from Doctor Shopping. Getting multiple prescriptions from different Doctor's and getting them filled at different Pharmacies. Stopping Patients from filing more than one prescription of the same drug has identified patient's exceeding limits of recommended levels. But, it also help to reduce the drug getting to the Black Market. Where they are worth at less ten to hundred times cost paid. All drugs sold should be reported to the State of Oregon. Across the Board. Identifying Patient's should only be included for some classes of Drugs, like Opiates, Morphine, etc. The State of Oregon does not need to know the name of a patients that has gotten High Blood Pressure medicine. But, the State of Oregon should know the quantities and all kind of drugs sold in Oregon. This program should include over the counter drugs, too. They can do just as much harm, if not properly disposed. All kinds of items should be included. Prescriptions, Over the Counter Drugs and Vitamins/Health Aides should all be included. All can do harm in the watershed.

All Pharmacy's should report drugs sold and collected to provide a system to audit compliance to the Drug Take Back Program rules of All returned items are properly destroyed. Every drug, Prescription and Non-Prescription Over the Counter items should be charge an amount to support the Drug Take Back System. It could be a percentage of wholesale or retail costs, depending on program needs. It should include the time for a clerk to collect, process and enter required data like drug names and quantities. But with No Names included data. If names are included, it should be only for a restricted drug that is already tracked by name. The package to be destroyed, must be concealed as to the contents of the drugs, that is being returned by the Drug Take Back Pharmacy Location. There needs to be a cross comparison of collected data to confirm the pharmaceutical drugs are being properly destroyed. Not ending up on the Black Market. It would be very easy for a clerk to write a different address, than where the returned drugs are suppose to be destroyed address. What was sent and what is received to be destroyed, need to be controlled and tracked at both locations.

There needs to be a checks and balances in the Drug Take Back System to prevent abuse. That can be done without Violates Patient's Confidentially. Exclude their names, with very few exception. But, all other Data Collected in the Drug Take Back Program should be reported. With the collection of the correct data, the statistical information would be very valuable. Over use of a medication would also cause the body to release the extras into the sewer or septic systems. That is a even more complicated prevention problem. Encouraging the medical system and patients to have their urine tested for excessive drug amounts would be one solution. Another would be for Municipalities to test for pharmaceuticals, before water is released to Waterways. We must find ways for Oregon Drinking Water for All Species to be Clean and Free of Pharmaceuticals. We must start doing Comprehensive Water Quality Testing to know what Chemicals are in our Drinking Water. There should be the comprehensive quality testing for Community Water Intakes. But, it takes comprehensive tests for drugs and chemicals to prove that water intake and output is Safe for all species, including humans. We must have data to know what is happening. Is Oregon water safe?

I encourage Drug Take Back Public Education Outreach be included in the Program. There is one thing that has not happened that I suggested in the meeting with Lincoln County former DA. Safety Lockers for Drugs. Here is a funding source available. Invent a Thumb Print Locking Prescription Drug Storage Case. Only the allowed persons can get into a programmable Drug Storage Case. Make them small, medium and large, readily available at all participating Drug Take Back Locations. Just a medicine cabinet, lock box with key or four number combinations are not enough to keep children, teens, young adults, other family members, acquaintances, or thieves away from ones prescriptions. Only a strong lock box that does not open without a finger print would be considered safe. The modern technology is readily available. Contract with Oregon Universities and/or Community College to invent and produce a sellable product that can be patented. That could provide funding for Water quality programs all over the State of Oregon. The sale of the designs will go viral. Make it a contest. The top three winner's are marketed. It is Oregon. We have always had to use our smarts to survive and help others. Marketing a Finger Print Lock Box for Pharmaceuticals could provide a good source of funding. It is another way to help reduce further the illegal use of Black Market Pharmaceuticals. Locked up and unavailable to sell.

Please support HB 2645 Oregon Drug Take Back Program. A program is greatly needed for Public and Watershed Safety. Get Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals Out of Oregon Water. I have a personal investment in Getting the Drugs Out of Oregon Waters. I am a chemical sensitive. I am allergic to numerous classes of Drugs, Food Chemicals, Artificial Chemicals, Pesticides and Modern Man. I am like the other half of species that have become extinct in the last 100 years. This is a very good question. Why has 50% of all Life become Extinct in the Last 100 years? The 1.5 million Chemical created by Man and Habitat Destruction. Chemicals in Water is also part of the Extinction of 50% of species in the last 100 years. We must find ways to continue to reduce the impact of Modern Man on Oregon's Environment for People and all species of Life. There is only One Earth, One Environment, One Ocean, One Watershed for Fresh Drinking Water.

Earth has a Closed Water Recycling System. What you flush down the drain or throw in trash is what everyone drinks. Half the Species on Earth have become Extinct, because of Man. What does the next 100 yrs = Zero Life? Yes, if we continue on the same path as the last 100 years. We must continue to find ways to get the Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals out of Oregon's Drinking Water, Waterways, Estuaries, Nearshore and Ocean. The Chemical Cocktails are served regularly to Oregon Watersheds. The chemical uses in Timber and Agriculture that effect Oregon's Water, with no research as to the consequences to Life. What Economic effects does the bad effects of chemicals have on Oregon? How many health problems does pharmaceuticals and chemicals cause? Not only for the Human species, but also for endangered species like Coho Salmon or Oregon Oysters and Shellfish. Could Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals be causing Ocean, Estuary, Nearshore and Waterways Acidification and Hypoxia? Maybe. How would we know?

Supporting HB 2645 Oregon Easy Access to Drug Take Back Program is a very wise for all Oregon Species and Cleaner Drinking Water. Win/Win for All. What is the current status of Pharmaceuticals in Oregon Waterways and Drinking Water? Who is testing Oregon Waters for Safety from Chemicals? Which Oregon State Agency has the responsibility for the Quality of Oregon Water? All of Them. Every single one of us have a responsibility for Clean Water. Whether, we live or are just Visiting Oregon. Everything we do, effects Oregon's Water, Air, Soil and Ocean. Oregon can not depend of the Federal Government, Big Timber, Agriculture & Chemicals Companies to determine Chemicals are safe. Oregon must control the usage to stop the Contamination of Oregon Waters with the Chemical Cocktails which can poison Oregon Waters. Where is the statistical data that proves there is no danger to Oregon from chemicals? Nobody's doing tests of Comprehensive Water Quality for Pharmaceuticals and Chemicals. Therefore, they are not harmful to Oregon Species? Only with Comprehensive Water Quality Testing for many contaminates, can Clean Drinking Water and Waterways be Verified. Implementing HB 2645 is a very good start to keeping Drugs out of Oregon's Water. There are many complex reasons that the HB 2645 Oregon Drug Take Back Program is needed now and for future generations for all species to be healthy. Good Start.

Thank you for your full consideration to Support HB 2645. Oregon's Drug Take Back Program has funding sources available. Oregon is making the right choices for Easy Access for Drug Take Backs.

Sincerely,

Cyndi Karp
Watershed Advocate
Clean Water for All Species of Life