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www.swanacal-leg.org

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATES

PAUL J. YODER

JASON SCHMELZER

Shaw / Yoder / Antwih, Inc.

1415 L Street, Suite 1000

Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 446-4656

FAX (916) 446-4318

paul@shawyoderantwih.com

jason@shawyoderantwih.com

CHAIR

MARK A. BOWERS

City of Sunnyvale

PO Box 3707

Sunnyvale, CA 94088

(408) 730-7421

mbowers@sunnyvale.ca.gov

VICE CHAIR

GLENN ACOSTA, P.E.

Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County

1955 Workman Mill Road

Whittier, CA 90601

(562) 908-4288

gacosta@lacsod.org

TREASURER

ERIC ZETZ

City of Clovis

155 N. Sunnyside Avenue

Clovis, CA 93611

(559) 324-2612

ericz@ci.clovis.ca.us

SECRETARY

MARK J. URQUHART, P.E.

Solid Waste Consulting

2741 Fairover Drive

Placerville, CA 95667

(530) 626-4771

MarkJ.Urquhart.PE@gmail.com

March 24, 2016

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson and Jeff Stone
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1229 (Jackson & Stone) – Pharmacies: secure drug take-back bins – SUPPORT

Dear Senators Jackson and Stone,

The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) is the world's largest association of solid waste professionals (over 8,000 members). SWANA's California chapters represent more than 900 members. SWANA is committed to advancing the practice of environmentally- and economically-sound management of municipal solid waste. SWANA's California Legislative Task Force (LTF) is responsible for representing the California Chapters on legislative and regulatory issues.

California communities are struggling with a serious public policy question – how can we best manage the public health and environmental consequences of home-generated pharmaceutical waste (prescription or over-the-counter human or veterinary drugs that are left over after treatment, or have expired). The stockpiling of drugs in homes is unquestionably linked to drug addiction, accidental poisonings, and there is concern about the environmental impacts of current disposal methods such as flushing and landfilling.

Various local governments have adopted, or are in the process of adopting, ordinances designed to provide safe and convenient opportunities for consumers to dispose of their unused medications. Providing safe medication disposal was listed as one of four key pillars of the White House national prescription drug abuse policy recommendations from 2014. Oftentimes, this solution involves take-back kiosks located inside of pharmacies. Pharmacies have expressed reasonable concerns about the potential civil and criminal liability associated with providing this service – whether done voluntarily or as the result of a local or state requirement.

SWANA is pleased to **SUPPORT** your **SB 1229**, as introduced March 16, 2016, because the bill will protect the pharmacies and pharmacists who provide an important community service by providing safe and convenient disposal bins to the public. Thank you for authoring this important measure.

Sincerely,

Jason Schmelzer
SWANA Legislative Advocate