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March 25, 2016

The Honorable Bob Wieckowski
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality Committee
State Capitol, Room 2205
Sacramento, CA 95814

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

Dear Chair Wieckowski,

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 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

Cc: Members and Consultants, Senate Environmental Quality Committee