



**SWANA**<sup>®</sup>

SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION  
of North America

**CALIFORNIA CHAPTERS**

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**LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE**

[www.swanacal-leg.org](http://www.swanacal-leg.org)

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March 17, 2006

The Honorable Joe Simitian  
Chair, Senate Environmental Quality  
State Capitol, Room 2205  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: SB 1305 (Figueroa) Medical Waste – SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Simitian,

The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) is composed of approximately 7000 public and private sector solid waste management professionals throughout North America dedicated to the development and enhancement of environmentally and economically sound practices and policies for the integrated management of municipal solid waste. There are approximately 900 members of SWANA in California, and on their behalf I am writing to urge you to support SB 1305, regarding medical waste.

SB 1305 would prohibit a person from knowingly placing home-generated sharps in certain types of containers used for the collection of solid waste, construction, and demolition debris, greenwaste, or other recyclable materials. The legislation defines “home-generated sharps” as being “hypodermic needles, syringes, and lancets derived from households including multi-family residences.”

According to the author, each year more than two billion needles and syringes are used outside of healthcare facilities nationwide. Most of these are disposed of improperly either through municipal trash or recycling, or flushed down the toilet. These needles pose serious health risks.

Currently, California state law does not regulate home-generated needles and sharps. The bill would close a serious loophole in current state law that allows millions of home-generated needles to be legally placed in solid waste and recycling containers where they present substantial risks to workers and the general public.

For these reasons, the California Chapters of SWANA urge you to support SB 1305 when it is heard before your committee.

Sincerely,

Yvette Gomez Agredano  
Legislative Advocate  
SWANA, California Chapters

cc: Members, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
The Honorable Liz Figueroa  
Consultants, Senate Environmental Quality Committee  
R. Scott Johnston, Chair, SWANA California Chapters Legislative Task Force  
Mark Urquhart, Secretary, SWANA California Chapters Legislative Task Force