



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

Representative Kim Rose
Assistant Majority Whip
118th Assembly District
Milford

Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
Capitol: (800) 842-8267
Cell: (203) 701-6098
Kim.Rose@cga.ct.gov

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Dear Chairman Meyer, Chairwoman Gentile and members of the Environment Committee,

I'm here testifying on HB An Act Concerning the Disposal and Collection of Unused Medication. Thank you for moving this bill along as a committee bill. I have been committed to moving this legislation forward for the past 3 years. This bill is important for the health and safety of our entire state. Not only are prescription medications flushed down drains every day getting into our water supply but they pose a potential risk to minors and adults who have or can potentially become addicted to them. I have enclosed a link to the most recent study done on this issue in the State of Wisconsin.
(<http://www.scaoda.state.wi.us/docs/prevandspfsig/FINAL01032012CSWReport.pdf>)

The study that Wisconsin has prepared is arguably one of the most comprehensive studies to date on ways to mitigate prescription drug abuse. Among one of the many topics discussed in the 52 page document were ways to improve and implement a prescription drug give back program. One of the issues highlighted in the study, was that communities had varying methods in which the give back was conducted. Some had permanent give back boxes, some had specific collection dates, but most had no program at all. Most of the communities had no safe and secure disposal option. The study also showed that the majority of consumers had no idea how to even dispose of this medication properly at all. More information can be found between pages 20-23 in the study. For your convenience I have included a summary of what can be found as an attachment to my testimony.

The Department of Consumer Protection currently has a pilot program in 30 cities and towns in the state and passage of this bill would allow Connecticut to be a leader in not only being a comprehensive disposal state but it would allow us to take a large step in helping to get prescription drugs out of the homes of potential abusers. Their model program is cost effective, has a limited effect on police manpower and has proven to be highly successful with the town of New Canaan disposing of 700 lbs. of unwanted/unused medications since January 1, 2012. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) currently holds drug take back days in various communities throughout the year; with an on-going collection taking place it would free their man power to do other work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kim Rose".

Kim Rose
State Representative

Thieves Steal Prescription Drugs From Medicine Cabinets in Open Houses

By Join Together Staff | February 1, 2013 | 1 Comment | Filed in Community Related & Prescription Drugs



Prescription drug thieves are stealing from medicine cabinets during open houses, ABC News reports.

Home sellers usually lock up valuables such as jewelry, electronics and personal information, but often don't think of securing their medicine cabinets. A San Diego realtors' group is warning homeowners about these thefts. "The take away here is common sense," Anthony Manolatos of the Greater San Diego Association of Realtors told ABC News. "When an agent is showing your home and you're not there, take your valuables with you or lock them in a safe."

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has observed this trend. "Stealing drugs from open houses is indeed a technique drug thieves use to obtain controlled substance prescription drugs," said the DEA's Barbara Carreno. She said drugs stolen during open houses include opioid painkillers, anti-anxiety drugs, ADHD drugs, Xanax and Valium.

DEA enforcement groups, called tactical diversion squads, have found drugs on the black market that have been stolen during open houses, Carreno added.

The Town of x Police Department Prescription Drug Disposal Program

30 U.S. States have a Medication Take Back Program where collection boxes are available to the public at local Police Stations. Connecticut does not have a Medication Take Back Program.

At this time, there are three types of collection boxes:

1. **Take Back Express**: Weighs 165lbs, Overall Dimensions 19"W x 42"H x 19"D. Galvannealed-steel collection and storage unit. Key-locked chute door prevents after hours deposits. Deposits in a manner similar to a mailbox. Removable 14 cube box or 5 gallon bucket for safe and easy collection. Anchors to floor, wall or both. 3 point locking system. Sale price \$659.00. Website: www.takebackexpress.com.
2. **National Mailboxes**: Weighs 165lbs, Overall Dimensions 19"W x 42"H x 19"D. Galvannealed-steel collection and storage unit. Top chute deposit. Removable 21"L x 12.5"W x 10"H collection box. Anchors to floor, wall or both. Sale price \$602.50. Website: www.nationalmailboxes.com.
3. **MedReturn Drug Collection Unit**: Weighs 167lbs, Overall Dimensions 54"H x 26"W x 21"D. Powder-coated steel collection and storage unit. Deposits in a manner similar to a mailbox. Removable 50 quart collection box. Anchors to floor, wall or both. Sale price \$895.00. Website: www.medreturn.com.

It is recommended to provide public with Press Release regarding collection protocols (i.e. no medical waste, no syringes, no unsealed liquids, no contraband). Further, Police Departments should emphasize the collection unit's purpose as an environmental issue rather than narcotics collection.

The collection and removal of the prescription medications should be decided by each individual police department and who will oversee the program. It is recommended that two officers have access to the collection box for integrity reasons.

The Drug Enforcement Agency will require a letter to their agency informing them of the program and collection site. The letter should be detailed and include the purpose of the program, the collection units details, disposal protocol and persons in charge.

In the event that citizens bring medical sharps or medical waste to their Police Department, signage should be posted advising how to dispose of those items. It may be necessary for each Police Department to supply permanent markers and plastic bags for citizens to utilize when making a deposit. The markers will be used by citizens to black out their names and address on medication labels.

The disposal of the medications and prescriptions should be brought to an approved incinerator, which the closest is in x. Approved incinerators burn at a high temperature and have correct emissions per State of Connecticut Environmental Policy.