



Secular Maryland

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HB 517 - SUPPORT

Drug Manufacturers - Drug Take-Back Programs (Take It Back Maryland Act)

Dear Chair Pena-Melnyk, Vice-Chair Kelly, and Members of the Health and Government Operations Committee,

Expired, unused, or unwanted prescription medication can lead to accidental poisoning, misuse, or overdose. According to the 2019 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, in 2019, 9.7 million people misused prescription pain relievers, 4.9 million people misused prescription stimulants, and 5.9 million people misused prescription sedatives. In 2021, over 100,000 persons died from a fatal drug overdose, the highest number of deaths ever recorded. By law, the DEA must provide regulatory guidance for the collection and disposal of controlled substances. However, states retain the authority to regulate collection and disposed of non-controlled medications.

California, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington require drug manufacturers to fund programs for the collection and ultimate disposal of unused or unwanted medications. This bill proposes doing the same in Maryland. Secular Maryland favors enactment of this common sense bill.

Respectfully,
Mathew Goldstein
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