

National Community Pharmacists Association

2010 Press Releases

Congress Approves Prescription Drug Disposal Legislation to Curb Abuse, Encourage Programs Like NCPA's Dispose My Meds

Alexandria, VA - September 30, 2010

The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives yesterday cleared for the President's signature [The Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act](#) (S. 3397), legislation backed by the National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) that could improve and encourage voluntary prescription drug disposal programs like NCPA's [Dispose My Meds](#).

Most notably, the legislation authorizes the U.S. Attorney General to issue new regulations (under the Controlled Substances Act) that could allow community pharmacies offering disposal programs to accept controlled substances, which presently can only be turned into law enforcement officials. According to the U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy, for young people ages 12-17, prescription drugs have become the second most abused illegal drug (behind marijuana) with controlled substances playing a major role. Passing the legislation took years of effort, especially on the part of U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) and John Cornyn (R-Texas) and U.S. Representatives Jay Inslee (D-Wash.), Jim Moran (D-Va.), Lamar Smith (R-Texas) and Bart Stupak (D-Mich.). NCPA supported lawmakers throughout the process by [providing the community pharmacists' perspective](#).

"Prescription drug abuse is at epic proportions in many parts of the country and community pharmacists are uniquely positioned to help Americans properly dispose of their expired and unused prescription drugs," said NCPA Acting Executive Vice President and CEO Douglas Hoey, RPh. "We commend members of Congress from both parties for coming together to approve this important legislation.

"Just this past weekend, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration held a national 'Take-Back' Day, which had the support of NCPA," Hoey added. "We commend the DEA for its efforts, but believe consumers need continued, ongoing access to convenient disposal locations. Programs like Dispose My Meds also offer another avenue to allow community pharmacists to promote proper adherence to the patient's prescription medication regimen."

Leftover prescription drugs from family medicine cabinets create the potential for misuse or accidental ingestion by children or pets. In addition, traces of prescription drugs have been found in [America's drinking water](#) when they were discarded in environmentally unfriendly ways.

NCPA has been at the forefront of voluntary efforts to help patients dispose of expired and unused prescription drug programs for years. Most recently, [NCPA partnered with Sharps Compliance, Inc.](#), a nationally recognized leader in drug disposal, to launch the Dispose My Meds campaign to make voluntary disposal programs easier for community pharmacies. More than 1,000 pharmacies are participating and can be found at www.disposemymeds.org.

The National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA®) represents America's community pharmacists, including the owners of more than 22,700 independent community pharmacies, pharmacy franchises, and chains. Together they represent an \$88 billion health-care marketplace, employ over 65,000 pharmacists, and dispense over 40% of all retail prescriptions. To learn more go to www.ncpanet.org or read NCPA's blog, *The Dose*, at <http://ncpanet.wordpress.com>.

- [America's Pharmacist](#)
- [Community CCRX](#)
- [Mirixa](#)
- [NCPA Foundation](#)
- [Pharmacist E-Link](#)
- [Surescripts](#)
- [Fight4Rx](#)
- [Dispose My Meds](#)

© NCPA • 100 Daingerfield Road • Alexandria, VA 22314 • 703.683.8200 • 703.683.3619 fax • info@ncpanet.org