

Safe Disposal of Unwanted Medications

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3 **WHEREAS** the accumulation of prescription drugs in private homes, adult homes and
4 other residential facilities, hospice services, schools, pet keepers, and small medical
5 clinics, increases the risk of home burglaries for drugs, as well as poisoning from
6 unauthorized or inappropriately administered prescriptions drugs (32% of deaths from
7 poisoning in children caused by taking someone else's prescriptions meds, 26% from
8 over the counter drugs and 26% from illegal drugs);
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10 **WHEREAS** the common method of disposal of unused pharmaceutical agents is by
11 flushing down the drain or disposal in garbage ending in the land fill even though
12 septic systems and wastewater and sewage treatment plants are ineffective in
13 eliminating the majority of pharmaceutical compounds;
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15 **WHEREAS** ecosystems are contaminated by pharmaceuticals as demonstrated by the
16 United States Geological Service having found pharmaceutical contaminants in 111/139
17 streams samples in 30 states. This has caused a profound negative impact on aquatic
18 organisms;
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20 **WHEREAS** the protection of the quality of our surface, ground and drinking water is of
21 utmost importance to be able to maintain human and environmental health;
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23 **WHEREAS** the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency does not allow for the safe, secure
24 and environmentally sound collection and destruction of unwanted manufactured
25 pharmaceuticals purchased and in possession of citizens;
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27 **WHEREAS** unwanted drug collection programs have been developed in Canada,
28 Australia and Europe without incurring increased prescription drug prices for patients
29 or increased operation costs for over 850 pharmacies serving as collection points;
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31 **WHEREAS** the collection of up to 15 pounds of medications per day at participating
32 pharmacies in an on-going pilot program in Washington State shows that citizens are
33 willing to turn in the unused and expired medication; and
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35 **WHEREAS** the FDA has not acted upon request for waivers to acknowledge and
36 support a legal voluntary collection program for used medication; and
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38 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Central
39 Committee urge all Representatives and Senators from Washington State to promote
40 and encourage revision to the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency rules and statutes to
41 permit and encourage safe, secure environmentally sound collection and disposition of
42 unwanted medications provided by the pharmaceutical manufacturers and pharmacies.

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45 Submitted by the Island County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for
46 consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 4/29/2008)

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48 The Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND RECOMMENDED
49 A PASS" at its May 31, 2008 meeting in Ellensburg.

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51 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 14,
52 2008 meeting in Spokane.