

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ATTORNEYS GENERAL

2030 M Street, N.W. 8th Floor
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036
Phone (202) 326-6000
Fax (202) 331-1427
<http://www.naag.org>

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Executive Director

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Attorney General of North Carolina

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Attorney General of Nebraska

June 25, 2010

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate

Sent via facsimile

RE: Senate Bill 3397, the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Sessions:

We write in support of S.3397, the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010, a bill by Senator Klobuchar of Minnesota and Senator Cornyn of Texas that would amend the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) to allow states and private entities to operate responsible drug take-back programs.

Under current law, the CSA does not provide a mechanism for states to establish programs that can accept and dispose of unused controlled substances. Yet, according to the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists, up to 17 percent of prescribed medication goes unused. As a result, there is not currently an adequate mechanism for our states to arrange for the safe disposal of dangerous drugs. Without proper disposal programs, these medications can end up in the wrong hands, unsuspecting children, experimenting teenagers, and those struggling with drug addiction. Equally troubling, improper disposal of prescription medications may end up in our rivers, streams, and groundwater, where they can cause significant health, safety, and environmental concerns.

The Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act would give the United States Attorney General authority to write new regulations governing safe drug disposal - which would, in turn, allow the Department of Justice to authorize appropriate entities to develop effective drug disposal programs. As a result, individuals and long-term care facilities would have access to facilities where they can deliver unused controlled substances to appropriate entities for safe disposal. This would both prevent prescription drug diversion and make our families and communities safer. The bill will have no fiscal impact on the states.

The Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act is currently before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. We strongly support its passage.

Sincerely,



Greg Abbott
Attorney General of Texas



Steve Bullock
Attorney General of Montana



Rob McKenna
Attorney General of Washington



Lori Swanson
Attorney General of Minnesota



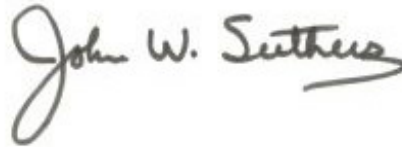
Daniel Sullivan
Attorney General of Alaska



Terry Goddard
Attorney General of Arizona



Dustin McDaniel
Attorney General of Arkansas



John Suthers
Attorney General of Colorado



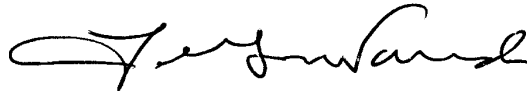
Richard Blumenthal
Attorney General of Connecticut



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Attorney General of Hawaii



Lawrence G. Wasden
Attorney General of Idaho



Lisa Madigan
Attorney General of Illinois



Greg Zoeller
Attorney General of Indiana



Tom Miller
Attorney General of Iowa



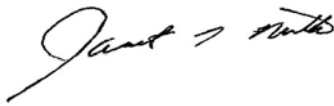
Steve Six
Attorney General of Kansas



Jack Conway
Attorney General of Kentucky



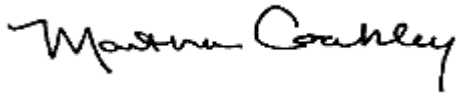
James D. Caldwell
Attorney General of Louisiana



Janet T. Mills
Attorney General of Maine



Douglas F. Gansler
Attorney General of Maryland



Martha Coakley
Attorney General of Massachusetts



Mike Cox
Attorney General of Michigan



Chris Koster
Attorney General of Missouri



Jon Bruning
Attorney General of Nebraska



Michael A. Delaney
Attorney General of New Hampshire



Gary K. King
Attorney General of New Mexico



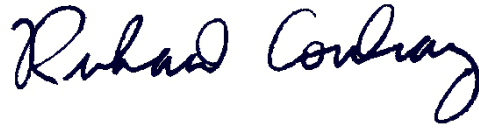
Roy Cooper
Attorney General of North Carolina



Wayne Stenehjem
Attorney General of North Dakota

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Edward T. Buckingham
Attorney General of the Commonwealth of
the Northern Mariana Islands



Richard Cordray
Attorney General of Ohio



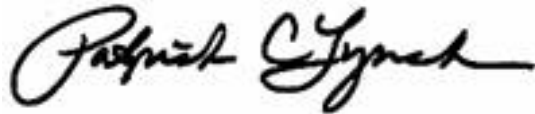
W.A. Drew Edmondson
Attorney General of Oklahoma



John Kroger
Attorney General of Oregon



Tom Corbett
Attorney General of Pennsylvania



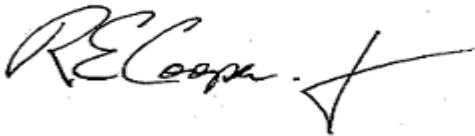
Patrick C. Lynch
Attorney General of Rhode Island



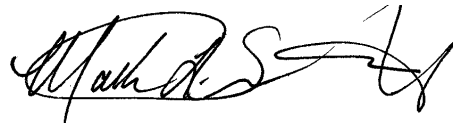
Henry McMaster
Attorney General of South Carolina



Marty J. Jackley
Attorney General of South Dakota



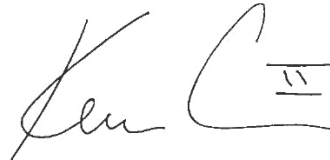
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Attorney General of Tennessee



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Attorney General of Utah



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Attorney General of Vermont



Kenneth T. Cuccinelli, II
Attorney General of Virginia



Darrell V. McGraw, Jr.
Attorney General of West Virginia



Bruce A. Salzberg
Attorney General of Wyoming