June 25, 2010

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Chairman  Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate 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
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John Suthers
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Richard Blumenthal
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