



## In Opposition to LD8 (Senator Carney)

February 17, 2021

**Position: The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) respectfully opposes LD8 because Mainers can already safely and securely dispose of medicines through a robust network of existing kiosks and pharmacies that offer free take home disposal packages, as publicized in the MyOldMeds program. Furthermore, this legislation requires the design of an educational awareness campaign that defines success with public awareness goals we do not believe are reasonably achievable.**

The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) represents the country's leading innovative biopharmaceutical research companies, which are devoted to discovering and developing medicines that enable patients to live longer, healthier and more productive lives. Since 2000, PhRMA member companies have invested more than \$1 trillion in the search for new treatments and cures, including an estimated \$83 billion in 2019 alone

**This legislation ties the performance goals of the drug takeback stewardship program to an extraordinarily high percentage to measure the public's awareness that such a program exists.**

This legislation requires a stewardship program to engage in educational outreach that results in program awareness at 60% of Maine residents after one year; 70% after two years; and 90% after four years. While awareness regarding safe disposal options is important, these are extremely high standards that may not be reasonably achievable even with best efforts. The experience of other jurisdictions demonstrates the challenge of achieving and measuring public awareness. For example, in the more densely populated city of San Francisco, awareness remains a difficult task even with considerably more population density than found throughout Maine. We would suggest lowering the percentage numbers to reflect more realistic outcomes for a rural area where outreach can be a challenge.

The biopharmaceutical industry in the United States remains committed to working with multiple stakeholders to help address issues associated with prescription medication adherence and prescription drug abuse, and safe disposal of prescription medicines.

In 2020, the Pharmaceutical Product Stewardship Work Group (PPSWG) re-launched a website, originally started by PhRMA, called MyOldMeds.com to provide information about securely storing and disposing of unwanted, unused, or expired medicines from households; information about following instructions provided with your medicines; and a Kiosk Site Locator for drug disposal. PPSWG is a US-based non-profit membership association comprised of producers of pharmaceutical products, which include branded and generic prescription and over-the-counter pharmaceutical products. According to PPSWG's most recent analysis of the 90 existing kiosks and 70 pharmacies that offer free take home disposal options throughout Maine, 48% of the population are within a 10 - minute drive to a kiosk or pharmacy, and 82% are a 20- minute drive.

Given the significant existing footprint of secure disposal sites and pharmacies offering take home disposal packages in most of the state, the state should focus on meaningful, measurable and comprehensive mechanisms to educate consumers about these options and how to ensure patients are taking their medicines as prescribed, thereby mitigating unused medicines instead of developing an administratively burdensome and costly program.

**For these reasons, we urge legislators to oppose LD 8.**

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