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March 17, 2016

The Honorable Senators Hannah-Beth Jackson and Jeff Stone
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814-4900

Subject: SB 1229 (Jackson-Stone) – Secure Drug Take-Back Bins – SUPPORT

Dear Senators Jackson and Stone:

The California Product Stewardship Council (CPSC) is a non-profit organization which formed in 2006 and is comprised of local governments and their associations, businesses, and the general public. These stakeholders work with product manufacturers and partners to encourage a producer responsibility approach to product management.

California communities are struggling with a serious public policy question – how can we best manage the public health and environmental consequences of home-generated pharmaceutical waste? The stockpiling of drugs in homes is unquestionably linked to drug addiction, accidental poisonings, and there is increasing concern about the environmental impacts of current disposal methods such as flushing and landfilling.

Various local governments have adopted, or are in the process of adopting, ordinances designed to provide safe and convenient opportunities for consumers to dispose of their unused medications. Providing safe medication disposal was listed as one of four key pillars of the White House national prescription drug abuse policy recommendations from 2014. Oftentimes, this solution involves take-back kiosks located inside of pharmacies. Pharmacies have expressed reasonable concerns about the potential civil and criminal liability associated with providing this service – whether done voluntarily or as the result of a local or state requirement.

CPSC is pleased to SPONSOR and SUPPORT your SB 1229, because the bill will protect the pharmacies and pharmacists who provide an important community service by providing safe and convenient disposal bins to the public.

Should you have any questions about our position, or wish to discuss your legislation, please feel free to contact Jason Schmelzer at 916-549-0898.

Sincerely,

Sean Bigley, Chair of the Board, California Product Stewardship Council

cc. Senator Bob Wieckowski, Chair – Senate Environmental Quality Committee
Graciela Castillo-Krings, Office of Governor Jerry Brown
Scott Smithline and Christine Hironaka CalRecycle
Ronak Daylami, Senate Judiciary Committee
Rachel Wagoner, Senate Environmental Quality Committee