

# WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF SHERIFFS & POLICE CHIEFS

3060 Willamette Drive NE Lacey, WA 98516 ~ Phone: (360) 486-2380 ~ Fax: (360) 486-2381 ~ Website: www.waspc.org

Serving the Law Enforcement Community and the Citizens of Washington

January 10, 2018



RE: Preventing opioid and medicine abuse through secure drug take-back

Dear Honorable Members of the Washington State Legislature:

Every day in our communities we see addiction, crime, overdoses, deaths, and grieving families because of the epidemic of opioid and heroin abuse. It happens in our big cities, in our small towns, and rural areas all across our state. It is a public safety crisis. This crisis must be addressed through a multi-pronged approach, not the least of which is more investment in primary prevention to stop misuse and addiction before it starts.

We support the creation of a comprehensive, statewide secure drug take-back system, and we call on the pharmaceutical industry to provide this simple service for the health and safety of our citizens. Reducing the supply of prescription drugs that is fueling the heroin epidemic is a critical action. In addition to limiting opioid prescribing and enforcing against illegal pill distribution, we must help residents safely clean out their medicine cabinets to get rid of the potentially addictive drugs they no longer need.

For over a decade, local law enforcement agencies have been staffing collection events, hosting drop boxes in our offices, storing medicines in our evidence rooms, and transporting ton after ton of pharmaceuticals to disposal facilities. We have done this because the public safety crisis demands it, but it is time for the pharmaceutical industry to be part of the solution. Secure drug take-back should be provided by the companies that manufacture and distribute the pharmaceuticals, as in the industry-financed program that would be created under SHB 1047, the WA Secure Drug Take-Back Act.

The Drug Enforcement Administration recognizes the importance of drug take-back in this fight against drug abuse. In 2014, the DEA finalized a rule defining who can operate secure collection programs to relieve the burden on law enforcement. Under the DEA's Rule, drug manufacturers and distributors can now administer these programs. Drug stores, medical clinics and hospitals can host secure drop boxes, which is more convenient for residents. Yet three years later, too many Washington communities still rely on limited law enforcement collection programs. That is because of a lack of industry responsibility.

It would be ridiculous to expect local law enforcement to take back used motor oil or recalled automobiles. It is equally ridiculous to expect us to pay for disposal of leftover and expired medicines, which is not a law enforcement duty. It is past time to shift the responsibility for providing drug take-back from public funds to the pharmaceutical industry.

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<b>DUSTY PIERPOINT</b> <i>Chief—Lacey</i>	<b>RONNIE ROBERTS</b> <i>Chief—Olympia</i>	<b>Executive Board</b> <b>CRAIG MEIDL</b> <i>Chief—Spokane</i>	<b>BILL BENEDICT</b> <i>Sheriff—Clallam County</i>	<b>JOHN TURNER</b> <i>Sheriff—Walla Walla</i>
<b>RICK SCOTT</b> <i>Sheriff—Grays Harbor County</i>	<b>MARK COUEY</b> <i>Director—OIC</i> <i>Criminal Investigations Unit</i>	<b>JOHN BATISTE</b> <i>Chief—WA State Patrol</i>	<b>JAY TABB</b> <i>SAC—FBI, Seattle</i>	<b>STEVE STRACHAN</b> <i>Executive Director</i>

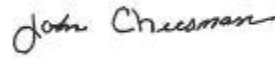
The WA Secure Drug Take Back Act is modeled on health codes already working in several local jurisdictions, including Snohomish and King counties. More than 400 pharmaceutical companies are collectively providing the MED-Project program, operating secure drop boxes in pharmacies and clinics, and distributing prepaid return mailers. This model should be expanded statewide to serve all residents.

We urge you, for the sake of public safety in our communities, to commit to doing everything you can to pass effective legislation this session to create a pharmaceutical industry-funded drug take-back system.

Sincerely, the undersigned:



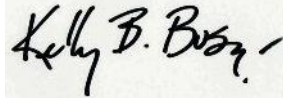
Chief Andrew Hamilton – Kelso PD



Chief John Cheesman, Fircrest Police Department



Chief Bob Lee, Auburn Police Department



Chief Kelly B. Busey, Gig Harbor Police Department



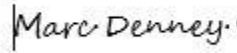
Chief Daniel W. Yourkoski, Normandy Park Police Department



Chief Kevin Fuhr, Moses Lake Police Department



Chief Darrin Moody, Shelton Police Department



Chief Marc Denney, La Center Police Department



Chief Gary Jenkins, Pullman Police Department



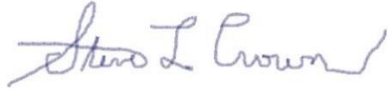
Chief Mike Warren, Ephrata Police Department



Chief Gregory Cobb, Union Gap Police Department



Chief Stephen R. Burns, Medina Police Department



Chief Steve L. Crown, Wenatchee Police Department



Sheriff Robert Snaza, Lewis County Sheriff's Office



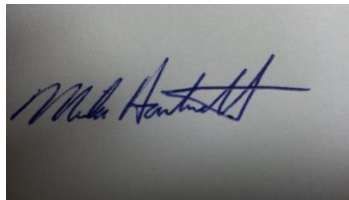
Chief Susan Shultz, Elma Police Department



Chief Troy Tomaras, College Place Police Department



Chief Ed Holmes, Mercer Island Police Department



Marshal Michael Hartnett, Pe Ell Marshals Office



Chief William "Lin" Tucker, Sedro-Woolley Police Department



Sheriff David S. Brown, Skamania County Sheriff's Office



Sheriff Mark Howie, Wahkiakum County Sheriff's Office



Sheriff David Stanko, Jefferson County Sheriff's Office



Chief Brian K. Asmus, Liberty Lake Police Department

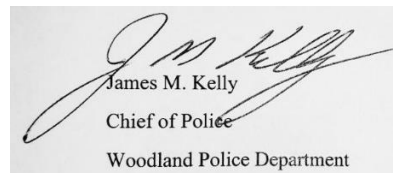


Sheriff Gene Dana, Kittitas County Sheriff's Office

Shane Brickner  
Mayor Pro Tem Shane Brickner, City of Liberty Lake, WA



Sheriff Mark Brown, Island County Sheriff's Office



James M. Kelly  
Chief of Police  
Woodland Police Department



Chief William E. Drake, Orting Police Department



Chief Dusty Pierpoint, Lacey Police Department



Chief Robert W. Metzger, Pasco Police Department



Chief John Vinson, UW Police Department



Sheriff Bill Benedict, Clallam County Sheriff's Office



Sheriff Tom Jones, Grant County Sheriff's Office



Chief Rafael J. Herrera, Kalama Police Department



Sheriff John Snaza, Thurston County Sheriff's Office



Chief Craig Meidl, Spokane Police Department



Sheriff Kendle Allen, Stevens County Sheriff's Office



Chief Cherie M. Harris, Kirkland Police Department



Sheriff Alan Botzheim, Pend Oreille County Sheriff's Office



Chief Dan Templeman, Everett Police Department



Sheriff Rick Scott, Grays Harbor County  
Sheriff's Office



Chief Kevin Dresker, Oak Harbor Police  
Department



Sheriff Paul Pastor, Pierce County  
Sheriff's Office



Chief Ken Thomas, Kent Police Department



Sheriff John Turner, Walla Walla County  
Sheriff's Office



Chief T. J. Rodriguez, Steilacoom  
Department of Public Safety



Sheriff Mark Nelson, Cowlitz County  
Sheriff's Office



Chief Sheri Crain, Sequim Police  
Department



Chief Chuck Spoor, Raymond Police  
Department



Sheriff Brett Myers, Whitman County  
Sheriff's Office



Chief Don Moody, Tenino Police  
Department



Chief Al Compaan, Edmonds Police  
Department



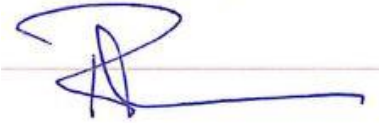
Sheriff Will Reichardt, Skagit County Sheriff's Office



Sheriff Casey Salisbury, Mason County Sheriff's Office



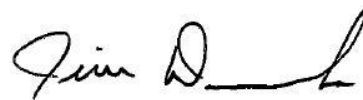
Sheriff Brian Burnett, Chelan County Sheriff's Office



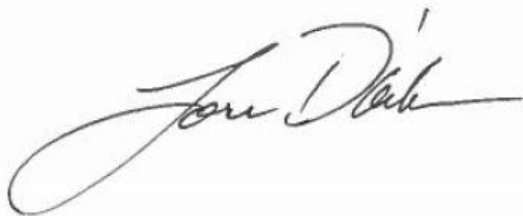
Sheriff Ron Krebs, San Juan County Sheriff's Office



Chief Kevin Turner, Ferndale Police Department



Chief Jim Duscha, Longview Police Department



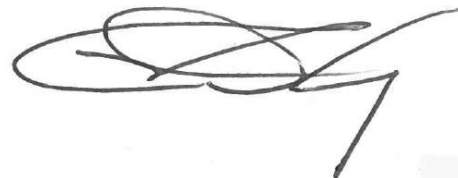
Chief Lou D'Amelio, Swinomish Tribal Police Department



Sheriff Ty Trenary, Snohomish County Sheriff's Office



Chief Scott Bieber, Walla Walla Police Department



Chief Rod Covey, Port of Seattle Police Department

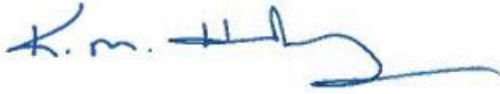


Chief Micah Lundborg, Edgewood Police Department

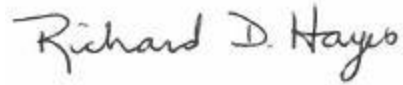


Chief Todd Hill, Oroville Police Department





Chief Ken Hohenberg, Kennewick Police Department



Chief Richard D. Hayes, Selah Police Department



Chief John Brooks, Ridgefield Police Department



Chief John Dyer, Lake Stevens Police Department



Chief Monte Renzelman, Asotin Police Department



Chief Jamey Kiblinger, Black Diamond Police Department



Chief Greg Wilson, Mountlake Terrace Police Department



Chief John Tufts, Grand Coulee Police Department



Sheriff Chuck Atkins, Clark County Sheriff's Office



Chief Carol Cummings, Bothell Police Department



Chief Tom Davis, Lynnwood Police Department



Chief Mike Zaro, Lakewood Police Department



Chief Nattalie Cariker, Brewster Police Department



Chief Matthew Hamner, Bainbridge Island Police Department



Chief Greg Elwin, Mill Creek Police Department



Chief Lee G Bennett, Airway Heights Police Department



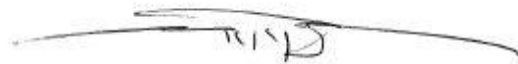
Chief Dave Eastham, South Bend Police Department



Chief Ronnie Roberts, Olympia Police Department



Chief Chris Turner, Connell Police Department



Chief Mark Burrows, Chewelah Police Department



Chief Jeff Myers, Hoquiam Police Department



Chief Rick Martin, Warden Police Department



Sheriff Bill Elfo, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office

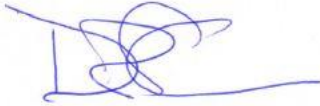




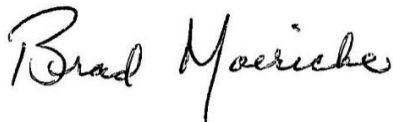
Chief David Doll, Bellingham Police Department



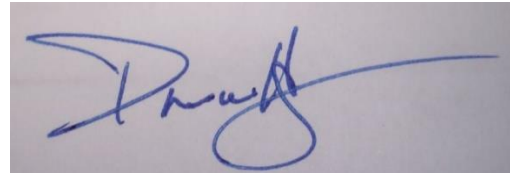
Chief Ed Sorger, Evergreen State College Police



Chief Dan Schoonmaker, Poulsbo Police Department



Chief Brad Moericke, Sumner Police Department



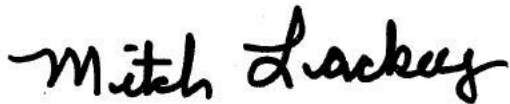
Sheriff Drew Hyer, Garfield County Sheriff's Office



Chief Joel Hastings, Clarkston Police Department



Chief Steve Sutton, Lake Forest Park Police Department



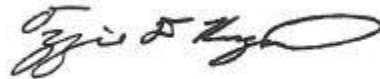
Chief Mitch Lackey, Camas Police Department



Chief Don Ramsdell, Tacoma Police Department



Sheriff Brian Winter, Yakima County Sheriff's Office



Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich, Spokane County Sheriff's Office



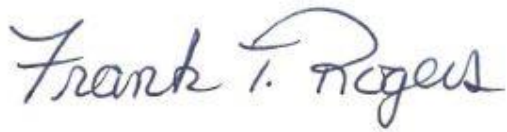
Chief Ryan Cox, Soap Lake Police Department



Sheriff Rocky Miller, Columbia County Sheriff's Office

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Simpson". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

Sheriff Gary Simpson, Kitsap County  
Sheriff's Office

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank T. Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "F" and "R".

Sheriff Frank Rogers, Okanogan County  
Sheriff's Office

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Calkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "J" and "C".

Chief John Calkins, Pacific Police  
Department