



CITY OF LONG BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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PATRICK H. WEST
CITY MANAGER

July 27, 2018

The Honorable Hannah-Beth Jackson
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for Senate Bill 212 (Jackson): Solid Waste: Pharmaceutical and Sharps Waste Stewardship

Dear Senator Jackson:

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, I write to support SB 212 (Jackson). This bill would establish a pharmaceutical and sharps stewardship program, under which each manufacturer of covered drugs or sharps in the state would be required to establish and implement, either on its own or as part of a stewardship organization, a pharmaceutical and sharps waste stewardship program. This bill also requires program operators to establish either a mail-back program or alternative collection program for such products.

The City supports policies and legislation that promote environmentally responsible approach to consumer goods, including requiring product take-back and recycling, reduction of packaging waste, phase out of toxic products, reduction of single-use disposable good, and the ban of single-use carryout bags and/or polystyrene. SB 212 is consistent with the City's environmental values as it requires manufacturers of pharmaceuticals and needles to establish a program to responsibly engage in the safe and responsible disposal of these products.

There is a demand for safe disposal in Long Beach. In 2016, a total of 4,587 Long Beach households participated in household hazardous waste disposal through the Environmental Collection Center (EDCO) facility and 2,565 households participated in the safe disposal facility located in San Pedro. These programs diverted a minimum of 239 tons of household hazardous waste including discarded medications and needles. However, the EDCO public private partnership facility is only available twice per month and the San Pedro location is available weekends only. Due to this limited access, Long Beach also encourages residents to dispose of discarded medications through Walgreens Medication Disposal Kiosks. SB 212 would meet the City's demand and statewide demand through the establishment of a comprehensive statewide take-back program.

Given these reasons, the City of Long Beach strongly supports SB 212 (Jackson).

Sincerely,

Patrick H. West
CITY MANAGER

cc: The Honorable Speaker Anthony Rendon, State Assembly
The Honorable Steven Bradford, State Senate, 35th District
The Honorable Ricardo Lara, State Senate, 33rd District
The Honorable Janet Nguyen, State Senate, 34th District
The Honorable Mike Gipson, State Assembly, 64th District
The Honorable Patrick O'Donnell, State Assembly, 70th District