

April 9, 2018

The Honorable Joni Ernst  
111 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Ernst,

Thanks for your efforts to address the opioid epidemic. The National Community Pharmacists Association (NCPA) is pleased to support the Access to Increased Drug Disposal Act.

NCPA represents the interests of America's community pharmacists, including the owners of more than 22,000 independent community pharmacies. Together, they represent an \$80 billion health care marketplace and employ more than 250,000 individuals on a full or part-time basis. By volume, 52 percent of the total prescriptions our members fill is covered by Medicaid or Medicare Part D.

As we seek to address the opioid epidemic that is impacting families and communities across our nation, it is vital that excess opioids are properly disposed of in order to prevent abuse and diversion. NCPA appreciates your efforts to expand access to controlled substance take-back and disposal programs to assist pharmacists in promoting programs that work for their pharmacy and their community. The Access to Increased Drug Disposal Act would provide use of grants to assist health care settings, such as community pharmacies, implement disposal options for patients and families in states where uptake of these programs has been low. As you are aware, some disposal options can be quite costly, especially for small business, independent pharmacies. NCPA and our members are appreciative for the financial assistance that the Access to Increased Drug Disposal Act would provide to help reduce financial hurdles for community pharmacies and other health care providers who wish to implement these opioid disposal programs to stop misuse, abuse, diversion, overdose, and death in their communities.

Thanks again for your leadership in addressing the opioid crisis, and NCPA looks forward to working with you to address this epidemic.

Sincerely,



Karry K. La Violette  
Vice President, Government Affairs and Advocacy  
National Community Pharmacists Association