



Empowering Communities, Advocating Solutions.

MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT

Expansion of Pharmaceutical Take-Back Programs in the SFY 2016-17 Budget

Flushing of unused or expired pharmaceutical drugs by residents and at healthcare facilities is a prevalent, yet preventable source of pollution in New York's waters. Providing the public and healthcare facilities with increased access to safe pharmaceutical disposal options will prevent further contamination of our waters, while also helping to prevent drug abuse. ***CCE supports expanding existing, successful DEC and DOH programs for safe pharmaceutical disposal in the 2016-17 NYS Budget:***

Expand Safe Disposal at Healthcare Facilities Statewide (\$1.35 Million for DEC)

The 2015-16 NYS budget included \$150,000 for DEC Region 1 healthcare facility take-back. This program works cooperatively with incinerators and facilities to collect unused and expired drugs from 25 healthcare facilities. DEC also collects pharmaceutical drugs from healthcare facilities in the Croton watershed and Monroe County (through general DEC operating budget).

U.S. EPA recently proposed a rule that would prohibit healthcare facilities from flushing drugs. It is critical that New York State provide a pathway for safe drug disposal at these facilities. ***CCE supports providing \$1.35 million to expand the DEC program statewide, in order to protect all the state's waters and ensure healthcare facilities do not flush.***

Expand Safe Disposal for Residents and Healthcare Facilities (\$350,000 for DOH)

The 2015-2016 NYS Budget provided \$350,000 to NYS DOH to conduct collection of unused and expired pharmaceutical drugs in communities throughout New York. The program has demonstrated great success, *collecting well over two tons of expired and unused drugs*. The program has:

- **Installed Drop-Boxes in 11 Grocery Stores:** King Kullen grocery store pharmacies throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties installed drop boxes and collected over 2,000lbs of pharmaceuticals to date
- **Installed 12 Drop Boxes (24-Hour) in 12 Communities:** Lloyd Harbor, Village of Floral Park, City of Glen Cove, Village of Lynbrook, Village of Garden City, South Country Ambulance Company of Brookhaven (Bellport and East Patchogue), and Onondaga County (5)
- **Held 31 Safe Disposal Drop-off Events:** Suffolk County (2), Village of Hempstead (18), Town of Huntington (2), Town of Mamaroneck (3), Town of North Hempstead (6)
- **Established regular pharmaceutical pick-up at 20 long term healthcare facilities throughout Erie County**

CCE supports expanding safe disposal to more communities in New York by providing the DOH program with an additional \$350,000 in the 2016-2017 NYS Budget.

CCE SUPPORTS EXPANDING PHARMACEUTICAL TAKE-BACK PROGRAMS FOR HEALTHCARE FACILITIES AND RESIDENTS

Citizens Campaign for the Environment is an 80,000 member non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization that works to empower communities and advocate solutions that protect public health and the natural environment.