



# APhA

2215 Constitution Avenue, NW • Washington, DC 20037-2985

March 13, 2018

The Honorable Joni Ernst  
111 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20540

Dear Senator Ernst:

On behalf of the American Pharmacists Association (APhA), and our 64,000 members, I am pleased to announce our support for the *Access to Increased Drug Disposal (AIDD) Act*. Prescription drugs sitting in medicine cabinets after they are needed increases the risk of abuse, misuse and diversion. APhA appreciates your efforts to provide patients and families with more drug disposal options to help curb the opioid crisis plaguing our communities.

APhA, founded in 1852 as the American Pharmaceutical Association, represents pharmacists, pharmaceutical scientists, student pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and others interested in improving medication use and advancing patient care. APhA is committed to promoting the safe and effective disposal of medications.

APhA supports the AIDD Act and its use of grants to help health care settings, such as community pharmacies and clinics with an on-site pharmacy, implement disposal options for patient and their families in states reporting low participation in these programs. Proper disposal of medication is an important component of combating the opioid epidemic by reducing the number of opioids in circulation and limiting access to those for whom the opioids were not prescribed. Some disposal options are costly, especially for pharmacies, many of which are small businesses. Therefore, APhA and our members are grateful for your help in reducing cost barriers for pharmacists and pharmacies who want to implement such programs to reduce the number of unwanted and unused drugs in patients' home and the risk of their misuse or abuse.

APhA is committed to working collaboratively with you and other stakeholders to improve the safe use of prescriptions, including their disposal. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Alicia Kerry Mica, Senior Lobbyist, Government Affairs, at [amica@aphanet.org](mailto:amica@aphanet.org) or by phone at (202) 429-7507.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Menighan, BSPHarm, MBA, ScD (Hon), FAPhA  
Executive Vice President and CEO