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Subject: Drug Take Back Proposal

Attachments: 2018-2-7 Drug Take Back at Scene - final.docx

"Good Morning Madame Chair,

I've has my staff working on some draft language to help with one aspect of the opioid crisis. The general premise was to allow for law enforcement to collect unused prescription medication when they attended the scene of death. Upon researching we discovered a few things. Law enforcement would already collect those medications as part of a criminal investigation where relevant. In most other circumstances it would be a coroner and not a law enforcement officer that attends the scene of death. We have worked with the Coroner's Association through Garry Watts to prepare this language which makes the coroner the lead and the law enforcement officers allowable except in the event of a criminal investigation. In the event of a criminal investigation the law enforcement officers are the lead.

In communicating with Garry Watts we discovered that at least in Richland County, and he indicated this was true of many of the counties, the coroner already collects unused prescription medication as part of their process/investigation to determine the cause of death. After the investigation is complete the unused prescription medication is destroyed. This essentially codifies what many counties do in hopes that it would encourage all the counties to do so.

The attached language is the proposal to codify this. It may also be valuable to consider making it clearly illegal to possess the prescription medication of a deceased person after a certain period.

I wanted to see if you might be interested in sponsoring a bill containing this language."

Best Regards,

Catherine McNicoll

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