

THURSTON COUNTY

# Proclamation

## Prescription Drug Take Back Day

*WHEREAS, National Prescription Drug Take Back Day is a day for every American, in every community across the country, to do their part to fight the opioid epidemic and help maintain a healthy environment by safely disposing of unwanted prescription medications from their homes; and*

*WHEREAS, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) launched a national Drug Take Back initiative in 2010 with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) because expired, unused and unwanted medication can be a public health and public safety issue; and*

*WHEREAS, disposing of unwanted or unused prescription medication safely, rather than throwing them away or flushing them down the toilet or drain, prevents them from getting in the water supply; and*

*WHEREAS, disposing of unwanted or unused prescription medication regularly, prevents them from finding their way into the wrong hands; and*

*WHEREAS, Thurston County is facing an opioid epidemic that has a serious health impact on individuals, families and the community with safe medication return disposal options being a key prevention strategy; and*

*WHEREAS, 5% of Thurston County middle school youth are abusing medication by using drugs not prescribed to them and many teens think it is safe because the medication came from family, friends or their own homes; and*

*WHEREAS, helping people safely dispose of prescription drugs, at no cost to local residents, is one of many important ways our local law enforcement agencies are working to reduce the impact of prescription misuse, abuse and overdoses; and*

*WHEREAS, our County Government promotes National Take Back Days, along with our local jurisdictional partners including the City of Tumwater, City of Tenino and our community youth substance abuse prevention coalitions, Bucoda-Tenino Healthy Action Team (B-THAT) and Tumwater HOPES (Healthy Opportunities for Prevention, Empowerment and Success); and*

*WHEREAS, the Board of Health supports implementation of the new Washington State law that establishes a statewide system of regulation for safe and secure collection and disposal of medicines through a uniform drug 'take-back' program and encourages Thurston County residents to participate in safely disposing of unwanted or unused medication as a routine habit.*

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** the Board of Health hereby proclaims April 27<sup>th</sup> as **Prescription Drug Take Back Day** in Thurston County, and urges all residents to participate and dispose of unused, unwanted or expired prescription medications at a local safe disposal location.

Adopted this ninth day of April, 2019

BOARD OF HEALTH

  
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