

Press Release: For Immediate Release

Teen's Pharmaceutical Disposal Proposal (TPDP)

Who: Rebecca Kassel founded TPDP. She is a senior at Aptos High School (Santa Cruz County).

What: TPDP was formed to educate the public about pharmaceutical waste in our drinking water. Consumers either flush their unwanted or expired drugs down the toilet or throw them into the trash, which leads to water treatment plant facilities or the ocean. Currently, water treatment plants don't test or remove the pharmaceutical waste found in the water, which means that these drugs are entering our oceans, causing fish to mutate, and destroying our eco-system. This means every time you drink from the tap, you are drinking drugs!

If pharmacies take back expired or unwanted drugs, then consumers will no longer have to dispose their drugs improperly. Unfortunately, pharmacies are currently not allowed to take back drugs from consumers. Rebecca has submitted a proposal to the "Oughtta Be A Law Contest" through California State Senator Joe Simitian's office. Check out the website tpdp.awardspace.com to sign the petition which supports the pharmacy take-back program proposal.

When: Since the 1950s, doctors started prescribing drugs and pharmaceutical companies started to produce more drugs to keep up with the demand. Consumers were told to either flush their drugs down the toilet or throw them into the trash. This problem has been escalating for the past 50 years. Consumers need to stop throwing their drugs in the trash or flushing down the toilet.

Where: This is a nationwide problem, but it is governed at the state level.

Why: We need to stop this problem now in order to prevent pharmaceutical waste from entering our water supply. Please encourage your readers to check out TPDP's website and sign the online petition. Rebecca has worked closely with Simitian's office to make the proposal a law.

How: Pharmacies will set up a drop-off receptacle located in their stores. Consumers will drop off their drugs in the tamper-proof receptacles. Once the receptacles are filled, then the pharmacy will ship the drugs to be incinerated.

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