RESOLUTION NO. 2017-01-19

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION CREATING A SYSTEM FOR SAFE AND SECURE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF UNWANTED MEDICATIONS

WHEREAS, abuse, fatal overdoses, and poisonings from prescription and over-the-counter medicines used in the home have emerged as an epidemic in recent years. Poisoning is the leading cause of an intentional injury-related death in Washington, and more than 90% of poisoning deaths are due to drug overdoses; and

WHEREAS, home medicine cabinets are a common source of prescription drugs that are diverted and misused. Studies find about 70% of those who abuse prescription medicines obtain the drugs from family members or friends, usually for free. People who are addicted to heroin often first abused prescription opiate medicines. Unused, unwanted, and expired medicines that accumulate in homes increase risks of drug abuse, overdoses, and preventable poisonings, and;

WHEREAS, a safe system for the collection and disposal of unused unwanted, and expired medicines is a key element of a comprehensive strategy to prevent prescription drug abuse, but disposing of medicines by flushing them down the toilet or placing them in the garbage can contaminate groundwater and other bodies of water, contributing to long-term harm to the environment and animal life; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Legislature is considering a bill which establishes a safe and secure method for collection and disposal of medicines through a drug “take-back” funded by health industry partners, and

WHEREAS the bill has been introduced in the Washington State Legislature but has not yet been enacted; and
WHEREAS the Clark County Board of Health finds that it is in the best interests
of the citizens of Clark County that a safe and secure method for collection and disposal
of medicines through a drug “take-back” program funded by health industry partners be
established, therefore

BE IT ORDERED AND RESOLVED by the Clark County Board of Health, State of
Washington as follows:

Section 1. Findings and Conclusions. The Board adopts as findings and conclusions those
facts contained in the recital clauses above.

Section 2. Support for legislation. By this resolution, the Board supports legislation to
establish a system for safe and secure collection and disposal of unwanted medications
funded by health industry partners.

Section 3. Direction to Clerk. This resolution shall be provided to the Washington State
Legislature as a demonstration of the Board’s support for legislation to establish a system
for safe and secure collection and disposal of unwanted medications funded by health
industry partners.

ADOPTED on this 25th day of January, 2017.

Attest:

Clerk of the Board

CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Approved as to form only:

Prosecuting Attorney

By:

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

RESOLUTION – 2
Eileen Quiring, Councilor

John Blom, Councilor