

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-01-19

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

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

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

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

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

19 WHEREAS the bill has been introduced in the Washington State Legislature but
20 has not yet been enacted; and

21 WHEREAS the Clark County Board of Health finds that it is in the best interests
22 of the citizens of Clark County that a safe and secure method for collection and disposal
23 of medicines through a drug “take-back” program funded by health industry partners be
24 established, therefore

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

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

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

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

ADOPTED on this 25th day of January, 2017.

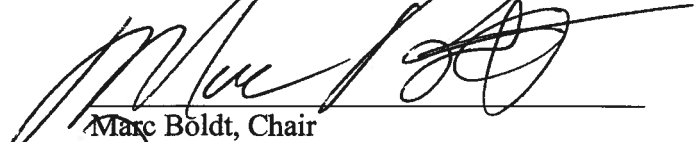
Attest:


Clerk of the Board

Approved as to form only:
ANTHONY F. GOLIK
Prosecuting Attorney

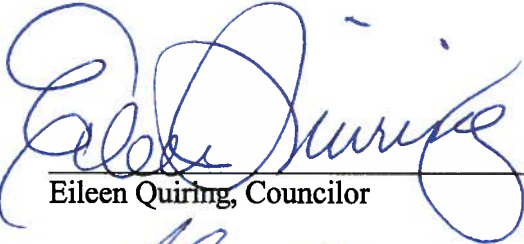
By: 
Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

CLARK COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON


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