

MEDICAL SOCIETY
of the
STATE OF NEW YORK

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Division of Governmental Affairs
MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

On Senate Health Committee
Agenda

S. 6673 (Hannon)

In Health Committee

A. 8436 (Gunther)

**An Act to amend the public health law, in relation to a
statewide listing of drug disposal sites and events**

This bill would require the Departments of Health and Environmental Conservation to establish a statewide web-listing of drug disposal sites, events and other disposal options in the state. The Medical Society of the State of New York supports this measure.

In 2015, the NYS Legislature passed legislation that allowed pharmacies and other authorized users to collect unused controlled substances in New York State. While this was an important step and made returning the unused medication easier many people still dispose of these drugs into the state's water system and environment. This measure requires that the NYS Departments of Health and Environmental Conservation have a readily available website which lists the controlled substances and other prescription drug disposal sites, promotes events and other disposal options. The website would be searchable by zip code and those providing takeback options to the public could provide information for display on the website. Requiring the DOH and the DEC to make this information available on a web-based listing would give the state another tool in the fight against prescription drug abuse and at the same time help to ensure a cleaner environment.

Consumers and caregivers should remove expired, unwanted, or unused medicines from their home as quickly as possible to help reduce the chance that others may accidentally take or intentionally misuse the unneeded medicine. Therefore, it is important that they know the locations of where to go to dispose of them in the safest manner possible. The Medical Society of the State Of New York supports medication disposal to support daily access to safe, convenient, and environmentally sound medication return for unwanted prescription medications.

For all the reasons above, the Medical Society of the State of New York supports this measure and urges its passage.

Respectfully submitted,

MSSNY's Division of Governmental Affairs

1/12/18
PFC