

BRETT GUTHRIE, KENTUCKY
CHAIRMAN

FRANK PALLONE, JR., NEW JERSEY
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115
Majority (202) 225-3641
Minority (202) 225-2927

March 21, 2025

Sheriff Michael J. Bouchard
Vice President of Government Affairs
Major County Sheriffs Association
P.O. Box 81762
Rochester, MI 48308

Dear Sheriff Bouchard:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Health on Thursday, February 6, 2025, to testify at the hearing entitled "Combating Existing and Emerging Illicit Drug Threats."

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Friday, April 4, 2025. Your responses should be mailed to Emma Schultheis, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed in Word format to Emma.Schultheis@mail.house.gov.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health

cc: Diana DeGette, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Health

Attachment

The Honorable Marc Veasey

1. In addition to Operation Medicine Cabinet (OMC) how do you think the innovative solution of increasing the availability of in-home drug disposal technologies would help to combat future addictions, non-fatal and fatal overdoses?
 - a. Any innovative solution that supports a safe and secure method for drug disposal should be explored and made readily available at no cost to consumers. Programs like Operation Medicine Cabinet, local takeback initiatives, and other in-home disposal methods all lead to better outcomes to ensure that unused and expired medication does not contribute to addiction or overdoses with our family and friends. For many, the gateway to addiction can begin at home for those who have access to medications and the best practice is to remove any medication that is no longer being used or that has expired. In order to do so, we have to raise awareness about the proper and safe disposal of these medications, so they do not wind up in our waterways and simultaneously make these services and programs readily available and accessible to the public.
2. Overall, increasing the availability of in-home drug disposal technologies can play a crucial role in reducing the risk of addiction and overdose by making it easier for individuals to safely dispose of unused medications. This, combined with educational efforts, can create a robust prevention strategy. What are your thoughts on how we can further promote the use of these technologies?
 - a. Raising awareness in partnership with all levels of government with public service announcements, advertising campaigns, social media, and through schools should be considered and implemented with clear and concise messaging. The problems we are facing with addiction in our country have relatively simple solutions to stop someone from abusing prescription drugs in the first place, but it must be communicated to our communities what options are available for them for proper and safe disposal. While the at-home technologies through private companies are an option, they typically come with a cost and is prohibitive for many to participate in. It is essential to message to the community all options that are available to them which means making sure we have community programs like Operation Medicine Cabinet and partnerships with our community organizations for options that are available for free and have 24/7 access for disposal. It would be great to see the federal government support additional funding and resources for these community-based programs along with developing awareness campaigns that can be shared nationwide for a united messaging among stakeholders.