



CARA Alert – June 22, 2018

A publication of the California Alliance for Retired Americans

CARA Statewide Drug Take Back Bill Needs Your Help- YES ON SB 212 (Jackson/Ting)!

Call the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee before Tuesday, June 26th

For years, CARA has worked to establish a statewide Rx Drug and Needle take back program. We had a bill several years ago that was killed by PhRMA before it made it out of the first committee. So CARA, along with dozens of partner organizations led by the CA Produce Stewardship Council, worked county by county to establish drug take back programs that will work for that area. Although these programs have been successful at the local level, many communities still do not have a program, and unused and expired medications and sharps still are disposed of improperly and dangerously. We still need a statewide program that requires manufacturers of these drugs to ensure that Californians around the state have access to a safe and convenient disposal method.

SB 212 is such a bill. With the initial agreement of PhRMA, SB 212 will allow those communities that have already established a drug take back plan to keep their plan intact (12 local CA jurisdictions have such a plan). What SB 212 will do is require the manufacturers of drugs and sharps to pay for their disposal throughout the rest of the state, in a standard system, alleviating the need for jurisdictions to enact their own program. Although PhRMA has agreed to this bill, many individual pharmaceutical companies are opposing it, and bringing out the big guns and big dollars to try and stop it.

This bill was just introduced and is on a very short time line, given the lateness of the legislative session. It **MUST** pass out of the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee at the hearing on Tuesday, June 26th at 1:30pm in order to stay alive and continue through the legislative process (room 444 of the state capitol – please attend if you can and wear your CARA t-shirt).

We know most of you cannot attend a hearing in Sacramento on Tuesday with such short notice, but you can **CALL** the members of this committee and urge them to **VOTE YES ON SB 212** on Tuesday. Please call the committee members – especially committee chair Assemblyman Quirk. But call everyone – especially if one of these

members is your Assemblymember – and urge them to VOTE YES so we can keep the conversation going and finally, once and for all, create a statewide program to safely and easily remove harmful and dangerous unused medications and sharps from our medicine chests, toilets, landfills, and ground water.

Here are the members of the Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials. Please call as many times as you can before Tuesday, June 26th (leave a message if you get their answering machine). Urge them to **VOTE YES ON SB 212** and establish a program to safely dispose of medications and sharps. Thank you:

Committee Members	District	Contact Information
<u>Bill Quirk (Chair) (D)</u>	20	(916) 319-2020
<u>Melissa A. Melendez (Vice Chair) (R)</u>	67	(916) 319-2067
<u>Dr. Joaquin Arambula (D)</u>	31	(916) 319-2031
<u>William P. Brough (R)</u>	73	(916) 319-2073
<u>Chris R. Holden (D)</u>	41	(916) 319-2041
<u>Al Muratsuchi (D)</u>	66	(916) 319-2066



**WE NEED YOUR DONATION
TO CONTINUE OUR SENIOR
VOTE PROGRAM!**

Last week we sent you an email to tell you about the success we had with our Senior Vote Program to educate senior voters in key congressional districts about the importance of voting for a candidate in the Primary that will work to support and protect Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. We asked for your help by making a donation to allow us to continue our work through the November general election.

Many of you responded by making a donation – and we thank you so much for your support . But we have not met our goal of \$5000 so we are asking those of you who have not yet donated to do so. [Please click here to make a donation.](#)

We are planning to make more calls in the upcoming months to speak to even more seniors, and encourage them to vote their interests in November. We will also mail information about the candidates' positions on key issues to over 25,000 seniors and host candidate forums in the fall in their districts. Our Senior Ambassadors will continue to call these seniors, and others to keep to talk about the importance of our social insurance programs and electing someone who will protect and improve them.

In order to complete this ambitious program we need to raise about \$5,000 through this on line appeal to pay for printing, mailing, forums, etc.

If you believe in our mobilization efforts and in helping to elect Congress members who will fight to support our beloved Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, please consider making a donation to our Senior Vote Project today. [Click here to make your donation.](#)

You can contact CARA at:

CARA, 600 Grand Ave. #410, Oakland, CA 94610

NORTH: 510-663-4086 • 510-663-4099 (fax) • jreid.cara@gmail.com

CENTRAL VALLEY: 714-488-5488 • Vishnu.cara@gmail.com

SOUTH:

LA COUNTY: 917-434-3220 • jennichang.cara@gmail.com

ORANGE/SAN DIEGO: 714-460-3542 • smeyer.cara@gmail.com

OTHER SOUTHERN CA COUNTIES: 714-488-5488 • Vishnu.cara@gmail.com

TOLLFREE 1-877-223-6107 • www.californiaalliance.org