



The Maryland State Medical Society

News: For Immediate Release
Additional Information Contact:
Gene M. Ransom, MedChi CEO
Office: 410-539-0872 x 3305

DEA NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK DAY – APRIL 28TH

BALTIMORE, April 26, 2018—The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is having a nationwide prescription drug take-back day on Saturday, April 28, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is an opportunity for the public to prevent theft, drug addiction and overdose deaths by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. For more information about this event you can visit <https://takebackday.dea.gov/>.

At the 14th National Take back Day last year, Americans turned in 456 tons (over 912,305 pounds) of prescription drugs at over 5,321 sites operated by the DEA and its thousands of state and local law enforcement partners – 4,274 law enforcement personnel participated.

This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

Gene M. Ransom, III, MedChi CEO, states “As always, MedChi, The Medical Society, encourages all Marylanders to participate. Too often, unused prescription drugs find their way into the wrong hands. That's dangerous and often tragic.”

About MedChi

MedChi, The Maryland State Medical Society, is a non-profit membership association of Maryland physicians. Formed in 1799, it is still the largest physician organization in Maryland today. The mission of MedChi is to serve as Maryland's foremost advocate and resource for physicians, their patients and the public health of Maryland. For more information, please visit www.medchi.org.