



June 27, 2018

Alphonso David, Esq.
Counsel to the Governor
Executive Chamber
State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224
legislative.secretary@exec.ny.gov
Re: Legislation before the Governor

Bill Number: **S.9100 (Hannon)/A.9567 (Gunther)**

Dear Mr. David,

The New York State Association of Counties (NYSAC) has reviewed the above referenced legislation and supports its enactment into law.

Product stewardship is an environmental management strategy that requires manufacturers of a product to take responsibility for minimizing its environmental impact throughout all stages of the product's life cycle, including its disposal. This strategy protects public health without passing undue costs on to taxpayers.

The bill before the Governor requires drug manufacturers to develop a statewide drug take back program, which must be approved by the New York State Department of Health. Drug manufacturers must cover the full administrative and operational cost of the program and provide free drug disposal options to the consumer. The legislation also requires chain pharmacies and mail-order pharmacies to offer drug collection by providing consumers with on-site collection receptacles, prepaid envelopes, or other Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)-approved methods of collection. Manufacturers must cover all costs of pharmacies and other authorized collectors, as well as costs for public education and awareness.

By enacting drug stewardship legislation, New York State will hold drug manufacturers responsible for the safe disposal of pharmaceuticals and provide New York State residents with free and convenient options for discarding unused and unwanted drugs. Counties support this statewide solution to stem the tide of the opioid epidemic and keep pharmaceuticals out of our water supplies.

It is for these reasons that NYSAC asks the Governor to sign this legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen J. Acquario
Executive Director