



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR HOME CARE & HOSPICE
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President

April 12, 2018

Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Collins:

The National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC) is the largest national organization representing home health, home care and hospice organizations and the patients and families they serve. As part of our mission we work toward policy changes that have the potential to improve the public's health and safety. As such, we support your efforts, and those of Senators Hassan, Capito, Baldwin and Warren, in developing the "Safe Disposal of Unused Medication Act."

Under hospice, a high proportion of patients are dispensed medications to address terminal, intractable pain. Most of these drugs are classified as controlled substances, and heavily regulated by the federal government. With some frequency residual medications that will not be used by the hospice patient remain in the home. Under current law, unless a state or locality has enacted legislation that otherwise allows hospices to dispose of unused medications, hospice staff may not dispose of such medications in the home. As a result, it is frequently the case that hospice home visiting staff must leave dangerous medications with a high risk for diversion in the home environment.

Your legislation works to address the challenges faced by hospice programs related to disposal of controlled substances and signals a clear understanding of the need for "real world" solutions to enable willing hospice providers to reduce the potential for diversion or misuse of controlled substances in patients' places of residence. We look forward to working with you and others as the legislation progresses.

Sincerely,

William A. Dombi
President