

House Bill 1338 (Carroll)

Fighting the Opioid Crisis by Expanding the Safe Pharmaceutical Disposal Act

Illinois is in the midst of an unprecedented opioid epidemic. Opioid overdoses have tragically taken the lives of thousands of our residents. The misuse of opioids and other dangerous medications is relentlessly destroying families and futures. Reducing access to these powerful and addictive drugs is an important component of efforts to address the opioid epidemic throughout the state of Illinois. While progress has been made to prioritize the opioid epidemic as the most significant public health and public safety issue facing Illinois, more must be done.

Under the Safe Pharmaceutical Disposal Act, nurses and members of law enforcement are allowed to dispose of solid medication that remains in a patient's home after his or her death. House Bill 1338 would expand the law to allow nurses and law enforcement to properly dispose of liquid medication.

Better for Our Community ... a hospice patient has chosen their home for their end of life care. Often they will be prescribed opiate medication, usually administered in liquid form, as part of their treatment. With this change in law, the nurse providing hospice services will now be able to safely dispose of dangerous liquid opiate medication after the patient's death instead of leaving the medication in the care of the patient's bereaved family. This relieves the family of taking on the responsibility for safe disposal and reduces the probability of the medication ending up in the wrong hands.



This legislation will make it easier for nurses and law enforcement to safely dispose of dangerous, liquid medications by eliminating any confusion over which forms of leftover medication they are allowed to dispose.

Moreover, this legislation will help prevent youth and other vulnerable populations from accessing leftover liquid opiates by reducing access to these powerful and addictive drugs. This is an important component of efforts to address the opioid epidemic throughout the state of Illinois.

**Please Co-Sponsor and Vote Yes on House Bill 1338
and Help Fight the Opioid Crisis in Illinois!**

Presence Health is a part of AMITA Health, the largest Catholic health system based in Illinois. The network includes 20 hospitals and 230 points of care serving over 5.2 million Illinoisans every year. AMITA Health employs more than 26,000 associates and 7,500 physician partners.