

**Police Chiefs in Snohomish County supporting creation of a secure, statewide medicine return program financed by drug companies to relieve burdens on law enforcement.**

**WHEREAS** in Washington State drug overdose deaths now surpass car accidents as the leading cause of accidental deaths, and the majority of these poisoning deaths involve prescription opioid pain relievers<sup>1</sup>, and

**WHEREAS** abuse of medicines by teenagers is an growing problem in our state, including abuse of prescription painkillers, anti-anxiety drugs, and attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder medications, as well as over-the-counter cough syrups<sup>2</sup>, and

**WHEREAS** more than three out of five teens say prescription pain relievers are easy to get from home medicine cabinets in Washington State<sup>3</sup>, and

**WHEREAS** addiction to oxycodone and other prescription opiates can lead to heroin abuse<sup>4</sup>, and

**WHEREAS** leftover medicines stored in the home increase opportunities for drug abuse, drug theft, and accidental poisonings, and

**WHEREAS** disposal of unwanted medicines by flushing pollutes waterways and disposal in household trash is not secure and environmentally protective, and these practices are not allowed by local ordinances in some Washington State counties, and

**WHEREAS** secure medicine return programs operated by law enforcement in several counties and cities in Washington State are collecting and safely disposing of large amounts of leftover prescription narcotics and other potentially dangerous leftover medicines, and

**WHEREAS** law enforcement officials are the only entities authorized to collect prescription drugs that are controlled substances for safe disposal, until federal regulations are changed under the recently enacted Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010, and

**WHEREAS** drug abuse, accidental poisonings, overdoses, and drug-related crimes create significant costs to our communities, and

**WHEREAS** law enforcement and local government budgets in Washington State are constrained, and sustainable funding sources are needed to provide or continue medicine take back programs in Washington counties and cities, and

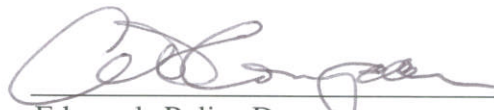
**WHEREAS** it is appropriate to ask manufacturers of pharmaceuticals to share the responsibility of providing secure systems for return of potentially harmful leftover and expired medicines, and

**WHEREAS** pharmaceutical manufacturers currently operate and fund successful drug take-back systems in Canada and several countries in Europe,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the undersigned Police Chiefs support establishment of a secure, statewide medicine return program for unwanted medicines from households that is financed by pharmaceutical manufacturers, and that does not rely on state and local government funding.



Arlington Police Department  
Chief Nelson Beasley



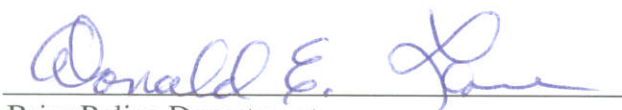
Edmonds Police Department  
Chief Al Compaan



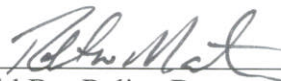
Bothell Police Department  
Chief Forrest Conover



Everett Police Department  
Chief James Scharf



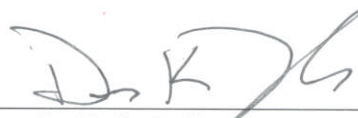
Brier Police Department  
Chief Don Lane



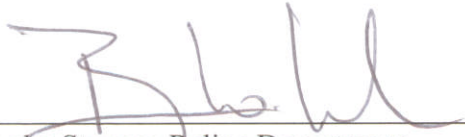
Gold Bar Police Department  
Chief Robert Martin



Darrington Police Department  
Chief Monte Beaton



Granite Falls Police Department  
Chief Dennis Taylor



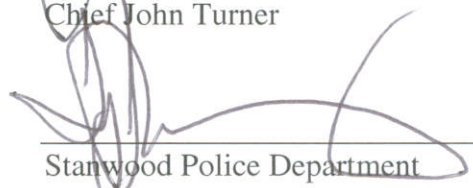
Lake Stevens Police Department  
Chief Randy Celori



Snohomish Police Department  
Chief John Turner



Lynnwood Police Department  
Chief Steve Jensen



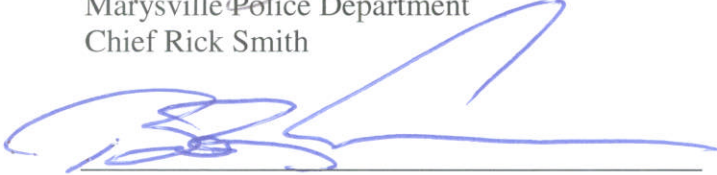
Stanwood Police Department  
Chief Ty Trenary



Marysville Police Department  
Chief Rick Smith



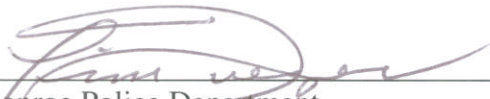
Tulalip Police Department  
Chief Jay Goss



Mill Creek Police Department  
Chief Robert Crannell



Stillaguamish Tribal Police  
Chief Joe Orford



Monroe Police Department  
Chief Tim Quenzer



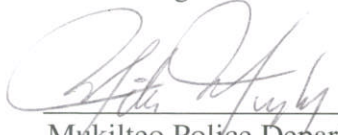
Sultan Police Department  
Chief Jeff Brand



Mountlake Terrace Police Department  
Chief Greg Wilson



Washington State Patrol  
Captain Ken Ginnard



Mukilteo Police Department  
Chief Mike Murphy

DOUGLAS HANSON  
CHIEF - TOWN OF WOODWAY

<sup>1</sup> Center for Health Statistics, Washington State Department of Health (2009) Age-Adjusted Rates for External Causes for Residents, 1999-2008. Available online at: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/CHS/chs-data/death/htmltables/e1.htm>

<sup>2</sup> "Prescription for Danger: A Report on the Troubling Trend of Prescription and Over-the-Counter Drug Abuse Among the Nation's Teens" (2008). Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the President, January, 2008. Available online at: [http://www.theantidrug.com/pdfs/prescription\\_report.pdf](http://www.theantidrug.com/pdfs/prescription_report.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Washington Department of Health. (2007) The Health of Washington State, 2007: Poisoning and Drug Overdose. Available online at: [http://www.doh.wa.gov/hws/doc/IV/IV\\_POI2007.pdf](http://www.doh.wa.gov/hws/doc/IV/IV_POI2007.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Banta-Green, C., et al. (2010) Drug Abuse Trends in the Seattle/King County Area: 2009. Epidemiologic Trends in Drug Abuse. Prepared for the Community Epidemiology Work Group, June 2010. Available online at: [http://depts.washington.edu/adai/pubs/tr/cewg/CEWG\\_Seattle\\_June2010.pdf](http://depts.washington.edu/adai/pubs/tr/cewg/CEWG_Seattle_June2010.pdf)