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Another Opportunity in the Fight Against Opioid Abuse

The opioid crisis is rampaging across the United States. But it is especially prevalent here in Wisconsin. I have seen the effects of this first hand and I know the pain it can bring to loved ones and our communities. According to the Wisconsin State Journal, last year Wisconsin saw 883 fatal opioid overdoses. All of us can help fight this brutal epidemic.

While it may seem like a small thing to do, disposing of our expired and no longer needed pain medications can have a large impact in decreasing this kind of drug abuse. Friday October 27th is Wisconsin drug take back day. You can bring these medications to many safe drop off locations throughout the state with many of these locations being open year round. It is equally important to check to see if elderly loved ones have unused medication that can be disposed of safely.

Common opioids include Oxycodone, Hydrocodone, Diphenoxylate, Morphine, Codeine, Fentanyl, Propoxyphene, Hydromorphone, Meperidine, Methadone and many others.

In addition to disposing of medications, there are additional programs in place.

In 2016 the legislature passed a bill allowing emergency responders to administer Narcan, which reverses the effects of a heroin overdose. Along with this bill, there is now a 'Good Samaritan' law which provides some immunity for people who bring someone to an emergency room or call 911 in the case of an overdose.

We still need to continue to look for long term solutions to this issue but in the meantime we can all help make a difference in our communities.

To find a drug disposal location you can visit:

<https://doseofrealitywi.gov/drug-takeback/find-a-take-back-location/>

As always, feel free to contact my office with questions, comments, or concerns.

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