



# ILLINOIS DRUG TAKE-BACK ACT

Sponsored by State Representative Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz (D) 17th District

One-third of all U.S. prescriptions go unused each year. This endangers:

## PUBLIC HEALTH



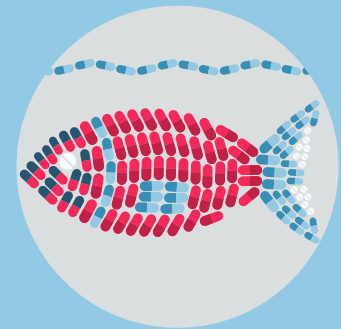
Home medicine cabinets are full of unused drugs, only a fraction of which are disposed of properly.

## PUBLIC SAFETY



42% to 71% of prescribed opioids ultimately go unused by the patient. (JAMA). Extra drugs can lead to opioid addiction, or they can be stolen, leading to higher crime and drug addiction rates in the community.

## ENVIRONMENT



Flushing medicines down the toilet or throwing them in the garbage can contaminate ground and drinking water harming the environment and animals.

IN ILLINOIS, OPIOID OVERDOSES LED TO:



**4,327** emergency room visits



**1,896** fatalities in 2018 alone

## The Solution:

**THE ILLINOIS DRUG TAKE-BACK ACT** would provide communities with a simple, safe, and effective way to dispose of their leftover medicines.

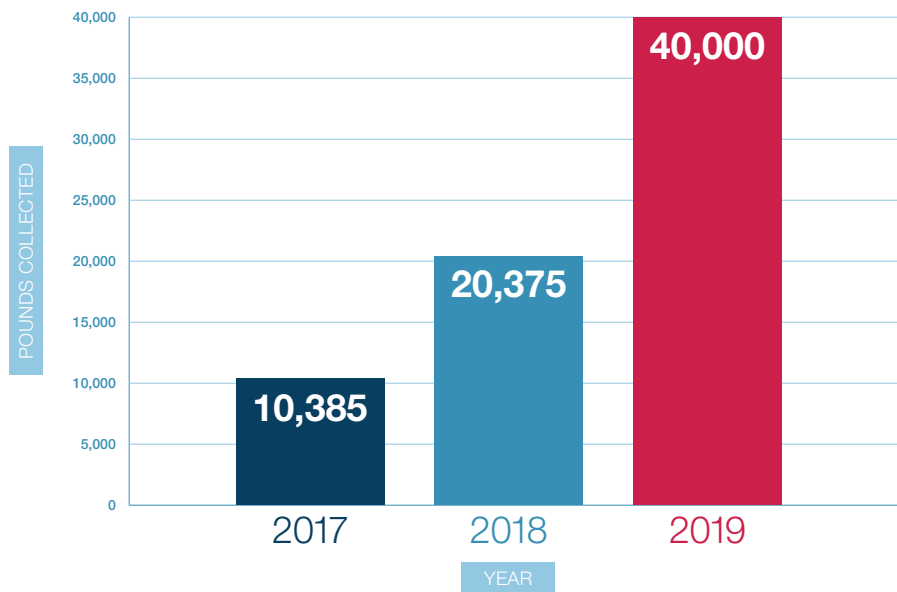
- Pharmacies, hospitals, clinics, and law enforcement sites will safely collect pharmaceuticals for disposal.
- Education efforts will ensure consumers understand where they drop off unused and unwanted drugs.
- Drug manufacturers would be responsible for funding these disposal efforts, providing a sustainable funding source for the new collection program. Entities already providing this service would be reimbursed.

## Proof:

Six states — **California, Oregon, Washington, New York, Vermont** and **Massachusetts** — have similar programs that protect their residents and waterways from the harmful effects of unused medications.

**Cook County's Drug Take-Back program is already a success.** The number of collection sites has risen from 85 (pre-ordinance, in 2016) to 200 (January 2020). Between 20-25% of pills collected by weight are opioids, and over 40,000 pounds of drugs were collected in 2019.

### Weight of Drugs Collected by Year in Cook County



### Supporters of the Illinois Drug Take-Back Act include:

- Illinois Environmental Council
- Illinois Retail Merchants Association
- Cook County
- Lake County
- Will County
- Solid Waste Agency of Lake County
- Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County
- Illinois Sheriff's Association
- Illinois Public Health Association
- The Illinois Product Stewardship Council



## TAKE ACTION!

Visit [ilenviro.org/takeback](https://ilenviro.org/takeback) and tell your legislators to support the Illinois Drug Take-Back Act!