

October 10, 2016

Chairman Theodore Lipscomb  
Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
901 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 201  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Chairman Lipscomb:

As physicians within the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Emergency Department, we would like to take this opportunity to highlight a serious public health crisis facing children in Milwaukee County, and respectfully seek your support to begin looking for collaborative ways to address this issue.

Sadly, too many Milwaukee County children arrive in our department due to prescription drug overdoses. These overdoses commonly occur when a child finds and ingests unused medicine at the home of a family member or friend. Tragically, these situations can often result in lifelong disabilities, or even death.

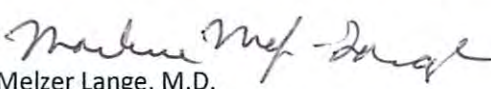
Fortunately, many of these situations could be largely prevented through a comprehensive approach to reducing the volume of unused medicines throughout the County. The Medical Society of Milwaukee estimates that Milwaukee County is currently collecting less than 10% of unused medicines in people's homes. By finding innovative ways to begin increasing this collection rate, we have the significant opportunity to save children's lives and improve health within the community.

Milwaukee County is a fantastic partner in improving the quality of care for our patients, and we deeply appreciate that the County is concurrently looking for ways to address the issues of prescription drug abuse and opioid addiction. As a result, we respectfully request that Milwaukee County also consider implementing several long-term strategies to greatly increase the collection of unused medicines, including:

- § A public education campaign on disposing pharmaceutical products in a way that protects health and the environment.
- § An increase in the number of permanent drop boxes to dispose of unused medicines.
- § An increase in drop off events and mail back events.

Please join us in supporting a County resolution or ordinance to help keep Milwaukee County children healthy and safe. We would be happy to sit down with you to discuss this issue in greater detail, and look forward to working collaboratively with you to improve the health of our County's youth. Thank you for your consideration and your service to the citizens of Milwaukee County.

Sincerely,



Marlene-Melzer Lange, M.D.

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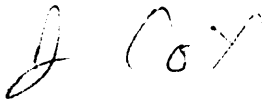
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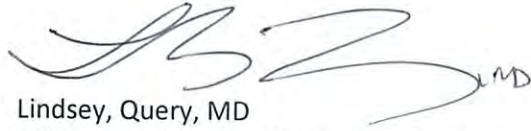
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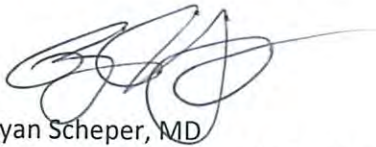
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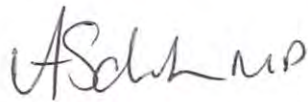
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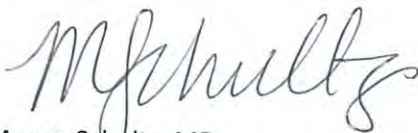
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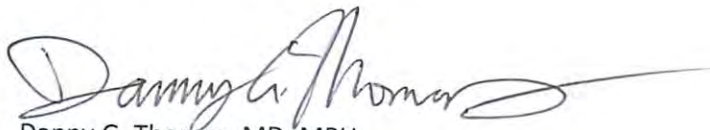
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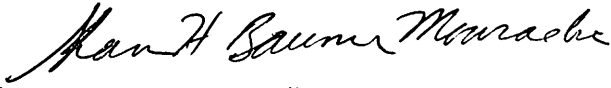
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