

111TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. RES. 539

Designating May 24, 2010, as “Prescription Drug Disposal Awareness Day”.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 24, 2010

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. KOHL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to

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## RESOLUTION

Designating May 24, 2010, as “Prescription Drug Disposal Awareness Day”.

Whereas in 2008, pharmacies in the United States filled 3,649,468,866 retail drug prescriptions;

Whereas in 2008, approximately 15,200,000 Americans 12 years of age and older reported having taken a prescription drug that had not been prescribed to them for recreational purposes in the previous year;

Whereas in 2006, approximately 26,400 deaths occurred in the United States from an unintentional drug overdose;

Whereas prescription drugs are involved in more overdose deaths annually than illegal drugs;

Whereas in 2007 and 2008, 55.9 percent of individuals 12 years of age and older who used pain relievers nonmedi-

cally in the past year had obtained the pain relievers from a friend or relative for free;

Whereas in 2007 and 2008, of the individuals 12 years of age and older who obtained nonmedical pain relievers from a friend or relative for free—

(1) 81.7 percent indicated that the friend or relative had obtained the drugs from just 1 doctor; and

(2) 1.6 percent reported that the friend or relative had bought the drugs from a drug dealer or other stranger;

Whereas the improper disposal of prescription drugs may result in chemicals contaminating the environment and water supply; and

Whereas collection programs may reduce the supply of unused, unwanted prescription drugs in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1) designates May 24, 2010, as “Prescription  
3       Drug Disposal Awareness Day”;

4               (2) recognizes the importance of prescription  
5       drug disposal programs to reduce the supply of un-  
6       used, unwanted prescription drugs in the United  
7       States; and

8               (3) encourages each State to establish and pro-  
9       mote a prescription drug collection program.

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