



UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

Washington, DC 20415

The Director

Thursday, April 14, 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR: Other Stakeholders

FROM: John Berry, Director, Office of Personnel Management
R. GIL KERLIKOWSKE, Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy
MICHELE M. LEONHART, Administrator, Drug Enforcement Administration

Subject: National Take-Back Day, April 30

Prescription drug abuse is the fastest-growing drug problem in America. In 2009, the number of individuals who, for the first time, consumed prescription drugs for a non-medical purpose exceeded the number of first-time marijuana users. Over the past five years, emergency room visits involving the abuse of pharmaceuticals have doubled. Those who abuse prescription drugs report they most often obtain the drugs through family or friends and from home medicine cabinets. Action is urgently needed to reverse these disturbing trends, and the Office of National Drug Control Policy is leading the Administration's efforts to reduce prescription drug abuse.

On Saturday, April 30 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., we invite you to take part in the Second National Prescription Drug "Take-Back" Day to benefit our country's public health, public safety, and environment. This is a great opportunity for anyone who has accumulated expired, unneeded, or unused prescription drugs to dispose of them safely and responsibly.

The first National Prescription Drug "Take-Back" Day was held last September, in conjunction with approximately 3,000 state and local law enforcement agencies. The initiative provided easy access to prescription drug disposal sites around the country, and resulted in the collection of more than 121 tons of prescription drugs!

Each Federal employee makes a positive difference in the lives of Americans, and a top priority of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is the health and well-being of the Federal family. We encourage you to carry forth this commitment to improving our public health and safety by participating in and inviting others – friends, family, and neighbors – to take part in the National Take-Back Day on April 30. Information on to how to find the nearest collection site can be found online at: nationaltakebackday.com