

NEWS RELEASE

Luther Strange

Alabama Attorney General



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AG PRAISES RESULTS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK

(MONTGOMERY)--- Attorney General Luther Strange said he is pleased with the enthusiastic response to Alabama's recent Prescription Drug Take-Back Day events held throughout the state this spring.

"Our law enforcement agencies dedicated their time and hard work to this important project for keeping our communities safer, and citizens answered their call" said Attorney General Strange. "At least 90 law enforcement agencies established more than 100 collection sites across Alabama. These events resulted in the safe disposal of approximately 7,531 pounds of unused, expired and unwanted prescription drugs, bringing the total since the beginning of our Take Back initiatives to 32,183 pounds."

Since the first Take-Back event in Alabama, in September of 2010, the program continues to increase in the number of participating agencies and partners, and most importantly, in the amount of drugs collected. This year's event – the eighth National Prescription Drug Take-Back – marked a landmark in Alabama with more than 100 collection sites and the disposal of nearly 8,000 pounds of medication.

The program is sponsored by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to combat the abuse or misuse of potentially dangerous medicines that have expired or are no longer needed for those whom these controlled substances were prescribed.

Attorney General Strange has been active in efforts to strengthen and expand Alabama's participation in this recurring effort by law enforcement for the safe disposal of prescription drugs. In recent years, the Attorney General has worked closely with the DEA, all three U.S. Attorneys in Alabama, the Alabama Department of Public Health, local law enforcement and others to promote the Prescription Drug Take-Back program.

"We have been encouraged by the continued positive response of agencies and citizens throughout Alabama who have responded with their support and participation," said Attorney General Strange. "This is an important and basic step to fight drug abuse and drug-related crimes, by assisting in the removal of potentially dangerous controlled substances from our homes. Many of us have out-dated prescriptions that are too easily accessible to children and others. These drugs can also be the target of home invasions and burglaries. The people of Alabama have been acting to protect their homes and communities by locating medicines that are out of date or no longer needed, and bringing them in for safe and proper disposal, and we are all made safer by these efforts."

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