



Rep. Tom Emmer on Emmer Encourages Participation in National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

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****REP. TOM EMMER:**

** Hello everyone, Congressman Tom Emmer here and today I want to talk to you a little bit about the importance of National Prescription Drug Take Back Day, sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Administration, which will take place this Saturday, April 29th. The goal of this event is to bring awareness to the dangers of drug abuse by providing Minnesotans and all Americans with a safe and responsible way to dispose of their unused prescription medications. Drug abuse is an epidemic that has been sweeping the nation, and unfortunately, Minnesota has not been immune. In 2015 alone, 338 people in our state died due to opiate overdoses. Just last year, the world looked to Chanhassen, Minnesota, after learning that Minnesota native and pop icon Prince died in his Paisley Park home from a deadly fentanyl overdose. While Prince's death put an increased spotlight on our nation's drug problem, unfortunately, the number of opiate-related deaths and overdoses has yet to decrease. Combating this awful epidemic has been a non-partisan issue, with Republicans and Democrats alike championing the issue and focusing on a solution. Currently, we're working to prevent drug-related deaths by investing in treatment programs as well as fighting to allow first responders, paramedics, and law enforcement to carry naloxone, a drug that can treat narcotic overdoses in life-threatening situations. These measures are vital, but I believe that more must be done to ensure that dangerous drugs are not falling into vulnerable hands in the first place. For many folks, an addiction to prescription drugs is where it all begins. That's why events like National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day are so valuable. There will be three locations in Cold Spring on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. These locations include the Cold Spring City Hall, the Richmond City Hall, and the John Paul Apartments. If you are looking to discard any medications, be sure to visit one of these locations or check out www.dea.gov to find a location near you. By participating, you play a major role in preventing drug addiction, and for that, we are so grateful. Thanks for listening and have a great day.

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