



May 4, 2020

The Honorable Greg Abbott  
Governor of Texas  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Abbott:

Senate Bill 1243, 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015 created the Prescription Drug Donation Pilot Program, codified in Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 431, Subchapter O. The pilot program is intended to allow certain unused prescription medications approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to be donated to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for distribution to charitable medical clinics, physicians caring for indigent or Medicaid-eligible patients, and penal institutions. By statute, DSHS is required to report to the Legislature the results of the pilot program no later than January 1 of each odd-numbered year.

As no funds were appropriated, DSHS was unable to implement the pilot program. As such, a report for 2021 has not been drafted. However, should adequate resources be made available, DSHS would be well-positioned to implement a drug donation program in Texas due to in-depth research conducted on other state drug donation programs in 2017. Full details of that research can be found in the 2017 Drug Donation Pilot Program Report available on the DSHS website at [www.dshs.texas.gov/legislative/Reports-2017.aspx](http://www.dshs.texas.gov/legislative/Reports-2017.aspx).

If you would like more information about this issue, or have questions, Imelda Garcia, Associate Commissioner for the Division for Laboratory and Infectious Disease Services, serves as lead staff on this issue. Ms. Garcia may be reached at [ImeldaM.Garcia@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:ImeldaM.Garcia@dshs.texas.gov) or 512-776-7679.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Hellerstedt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

John Hellerstedt, M.D.



May 4, 2020

The Honorable Dan Patrick  
Lt. Governor of Texas  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Patrick:

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John Hellerstedt, M.D.



May 4, 2020

The Honorable Dennis Bonnen  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, TX 78768

Dear Speaker Bonnen:

Senate Bill 1243, 84th Legislature, Regular Session, 2015 created the Prescription Drug Donation Pilot Program, codified in Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 431, Subchapter O. The pilot program is intended to allow certain unused prescription medications approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to be donated to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for distribution to charitable medical clinics, physicians caring for indigent or Medicaid-eligible patients, and penal institutions. By statute, DSHS is required to report to the Legislature the results of the pilot program no later than January 1 of each odd-numbered year.

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John Hellerstedt, M.D.