FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 10, 2019
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Michigan Pharmacists Association to Hold
Tenth Annual Medication Disposal Event at the Capitol

WHO: Michigan Pharmacists Association
WHAT: Tenth Annual Medication Disposal Event at the Capitol
WHEN: Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
WHERE: Michigan State Capitol, south lawn, Lansing

WHY: According to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, in 2017 alone there were 2,686 drug overdose deaths in Michigan. Of those overdose deaths, 2,053 involved opioids. Throughout the U.S. in 2017, enough opioid prescriptions were dispensed for nearly half the population to have one. Many people obtain these opioid medications from family members, friends or out of household medicine cabinets and are not fully aware of proper medication disposal practices. Michigan Pharmacists Association’s (MPA) medication disposal event provides an opportunity for the general public to learn about appropriate disposal of medications. This event also provides an opportunity for the public to properly dispose of any unwanted, unused or expired medications, including narcotics and controlled substances. Medications can be dropped off in the disposal tent on the south lawn, or curbside drop-off will be available at S. Capitol Ave. between Michigan Ave. and Allegan St. between 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

At the 2018 medication disposal event, MPA, in cooperation with the city of Wyoming, collected nearly 351 pounds of unused and expired medications. Of those 351 pounds, over 62 were of controlled substances. Since MPA began the medication disposal event nine years ago, a total of 3.5 tons of pharmaceuticals have been collected and properly disposed of.

The 11 a.m. press conference will focus on actions that all healthcare providers, including pharmacists, can take to combat the rising costs of the opioid epidemic, how to educate the public and patients about properly disposing of medications to keep them off the streets and out of our environment and efforts of the state to combat the ongoing epidemic. For more information, visit www.MichiganPharmacists.org/MedicationDisposal.

Confirmed speakers to date:
- Larry Wagenknecht, pharmacist and chief executive officer, Michigan Pharmacists Association
- Sandra Taylor, Pharm.D., chair, Michigan Pharmacists Association
- Lawrence J. “Larry” Burns, president and chief executive officer, Children’s Foundation
- Jack Schinderle, director materials management division, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

Michigan Pharmacists Association strives to serve members by providing support, advocacy and resources that ultimately improve patient care, safety, health and the practice of pharmacy. For more information, visit www.MichiganPharmacists.org.

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