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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Fayette County District Attorney to Announce Medication Take Back Box Program

Uniontown, PA - On February 17, 2017 at 9:00am, in the Fayette County Courthouse, Fayette County District Attorney Richard Bower will launch a program designed to significantly reduce the prescription drugs in Fayette County homes that are either no longer needed or outdated. Accompanying him with this announcement will be Attorney Richard Long, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association. In collaboration with the Fayette County Drug and Alcohol Commission, Inc., District Attorney Bower obtained funding through the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association to secure medication collection boxes in multiple locations within Fayette County.

Prescription drug misuse, abuse and overdose are growing concerns within Fayette County and across the state. According to the 2015 PA Youth Survey in Fayette County, 14.3 percent of youth surveyed admitted to taking prescription drugs that were not prescribed to them and over 55 percent took prescription medications from family members and/or relatives. The excess of medications in local households creates significant opportunities for unintentional poisonings, illegal distribution, substance misuse or abuse, and environmental contamination.

District Attorney Richard Bower states, "This is just one step toward reducing the amount of prescription drug abuse in Fayette County and I believe that our citizens will take full advantage of this program. Medication collection boxes, along with enforcement, education and effective rehabilitation, is the only way our community can make positive strides toward addressing this issue."

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