

Prescription Drug Depository Program Expanded

During last summer's disasters, one problem that arose for those affected by the tornadoes and flooding was the loss of their prescription drugs. To make matters worse, in some cases their pharmacies were also affected by the disaster. People did not have their medications and needed help obtaining replacements. Although Iowa has a prescription drug depository, it could not be used for these disaster victims.

Several years ago, the Legislature created the drug de-

pository to provide free drugs to low-income Iowans. The drugs come from nursing homes and hospitals. They must be in a bubble-wrap – not leftover pills in a bottle. The depository uses local pharmacies and medical facilities to distribute medications to eligible Iowans. Prior to creation of the depository, these drugs were simply destroyed.

Senate File 377, passed this week by the Iowa House, will allow disaster victims to access the drug depository.

The Department of Public Health will be able to receive prescription drugs and supplies during natural or public health disasters proclaimed by the Governor. The drugs will then be provided to local pharmacies and medical facilities to distribute.

Senate File 377 was modified in the House so must now return to the Senate for further consideration before going to the Governor for his approval.