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February 23, 2011

The Honorable Rick Scott  
Governor, State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Governor Scott:

On behalf of my fellow City Commissioners and the residents of the City of Oakland Park, Florida, I respectfully ask that you reverse your position on the value of and indisputable need for the Florida's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) and implement this important medical and law enforcement solution. This database can help our law enforcement, pharmacists, and health officials pinpoint patients who abuse or traffic in powerful pills like oxycodone by getting multiple prescriptions in a very short timeframe, a practice known as doctor-shopping. Forty-two other states have databases in place and Florida's participation is vital to the success of fighting this problem on a national basis.

Prescription drug deaths climbed to 2,488 in 2009 – a rate of seven deaths per day – making prescription drug abuse the Number One killer of middle-aged Floridians. In Broward County alone, 415 people died with prescription opiates (including oxycodone, hydrocodone, methadone and morphine) in their systems. Our City Commission has taken steps to change our zoning laws to combat the opening of the pill mills within our city, but now need your support further fighting this serious epidemic.

I strongly encourage you join our fight and work to implement Florida's PDMP.

Respectfully,

Allegra Webb Murphy, Mayor  
City of Oakland Park, Florida

cc: City Commission  
John Stunson, City Manager