

Dr. Robert Ben Mitchell, D.O.

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To: Robert S. Mueller, III, Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
J. Edgar Hoover Building
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20535-0001
phone: (202) 324-3000

04/30/10

Re: The Florida Pill-Mill Massacres

Dear Director Mueller and all copied individuals (see page 3),

I am writing to you, Director Mueller, on behalf of all of the thousands of people who have died in Florida under Governor Charlie Crist's administration, and the tens of thousands of people who died under Governor Jeb Bush's administration. These deaths have been documented annually by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) *Medical Examiner's Report of Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons* (available online). During this past decade, the primary causes of all of these deaths have been prescribed pain medications, predominantly those prescribed under the guise of pain management.

In Florida, since around the year 2000, pain management has steadily evolved into drug dealing by physicians licensed to practice medicine in our state: a form of legalized, medical murder-for-money. There is so much money involved in these crimes that the *Interim Report of the Broward County Grand Jury - The Proliferation of Pain Clinics in South Florida - Spring Term A.D. 2009* (available online) questioned whether the Florida Boards of Medicine would have the will to correct such a lucrative form of medical practice. And indeed, the medical boards have not corrected this situation.

The Florida Boards of Medicine - M.D. and D.O. - have a stated mission to "promote, protect and improve the health of all people in Florida," even those who are unnecessarily dependent on pain medications. Yet, the boards have blatantly failed this mission during the past decade, even in the face of thousands of FDLE documented deaths each and every year. I have argued for, and twice proposed (2005 and 2010) that the boards issue a statewide emergency rule to curb the abusive physician-based, murder-for-money practice that is occurring in our state. The boards have used such statewide emergency rules in the past for much lesser problems (i.e. - in 2000 for 5 deaths due to in-office liposuction: rules 64B8ER00-1, 64B8ER00-3, and 64B8ER00-4; all available online). It would seem under the circumstances that they have both a legal and ethical obligation to use such power now. I would have. They have not.

I have often wondered how such a crisis could continue unabated for so long without any effectual action by either the Florida Boards of Medicine (M.D. or D.O.), the Florida Department of Health (DOH), or by our state governor's office. More people die each year from prescribed pain medications in Florida than have ever been killed by any single hurricane. In fact, more people now die each year in Florida by pain medication overdoses than died in the 9/11 attacks. The Broward Grand Jury report cited above estimates that over 13 people die per day in our state from such deaths, or well over 4,000 each year. So why didn't Governor Jeb Bush, and why doesn't Governor Charlie Crist declare a state of emergency. I would have. They have not.

This situation in Florida is beyond a tragedy. It is a hideous mark on our state's history. One can only guess why this is happening, for not only has no one in a position of governing power done anything of substance to stop this slaughter, no one in a position of governing power is coming forward to explain it, either. So, I can only guess. Is it mere greed, bribes and kick-backs? Or is it something more insidious, pernicious and brutal: an Irian-Contra type of scandal, perhaps with ties to the Federal government? Given the players involved in our state's highest offices this past decade, nothing seems out of the question. But the people who have died deserve more than questions and guesses. They deserve answers.

As I am unable to answer the many questions raised above, and as the highest levels of our state's governance are involved by both their insufficient actions and voluntary inactions in this travesty, **I am formally requesting that the Federal Bureau of Investigation start an in-depth probe into what I call *The Florida Pill-Mill Massacres*.** I would recommend that you investigate all levels of local and state government in Florida, including the governor's office of both the Crist and Bush administrations, our DOH, and both Florida Boards of Medicine.

Neither the governor's office (past or present), the DOH or the Florida Boards of Medicine can claim they were unaware of this crisis as our own FDLE documents it in writing each and every year (see above). Their insufficient actions and voluntary inactions - in the face these deaths - by two governors, the DOH and the medical boards is also documented. They had and continue to have the power to end this onslaught, yet they do not. They may not have pulled the trigger, or written the deadly prescriptions, but they know what is happening and, rather than intercede in an effectual manner, they have chosen to be ineffective. In doing so, they are complicit in these crimes and should answer for their wrong doing.

In the name of all those who have wrongly died at the hands of physicians who have been allowed to unethically practice medicine in a lethal manner in Florida, I ask that you, the FBI, investigate and, if applicable, bring to justice all those in our state government who chose not to fulfill their sworn and prescribed duties to protect the people of Florida.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Ben Mitchell, D.O.

- cc:
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