

Dr. Robert Ben Mitchell, D.O.

Suboxone Opioid Dependence Treatment Program
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To: Mark W. Caverly, Chief
Liaison and Policy Section
Office of Diversion Control
U.S. Department of Justice
Drug Enforcement Agency
8701 Morrissette Drive
Springfield, Virginia 22152

07/13/10

Re: Your letter dated 07/06/10 regarding the *Florida Pill Mill Massacres*

Mr. Caverly and all copied individuals (see page 2),

Mr. Caverly, in response to your letter of 07/06/10 (copy attached) regarding my letter of 05/07/10 to Diane Orcutt of the Florida Department of Health, I was dismayed to receive such a tepid and unfocused letter from you. It was sad to find that other than stating that the "DEA shares your concerns regarding the illegal prescribing and dispensing of controlled substances," you spent the remainder of your letter denoting NSDUH surveys and quoting Title 21 of the C.F.R.. Given the hideous number of people who have died in Florida this past decade during the *Florida Pill Mill Massacres*, I would have expected a more forthright and committed response from you. Considering that the deaths documented in the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) *Medical Examiner's Report of Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons* (available online) over this past decade surpass the total number of those killed in all of Mexico this past decade during their national drug war, you could have and should have done much better.

Your failure to commit to a stronger and more appropriate response is, unfortunately, consistent with the DEA's long-term, hamstrung position. I am well aware of the DEA's limited funding and therefore limited capacity to carry out its stated mission. Florida's woefully ineffectual pain management rules (FAC 64B15-14.005 - DO, and FAC 64B8-9.013 - MD) only make the DEA's job that much more difficult by creating legal blinds behind which physicians can hide from the DEA and other legal authorities. This, combined with the fact that the state's boards of medicine have never issued a single **state-wide** emergency order during this entire past decade of the *Florida Pill Mill Massacres*, only heightens my suspicion that there is a larger hand in control here which necessitates an investigation from, and likely intervention by the FBI. After all, if it looks like shit and smells like shit...then you're probably in Florida.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Ben Mitchell, D.O.

- cc:
1. Robert S. Mueller, III, Director
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Washington, D.C. 20535-0001
 2. Governor Charlie Crist
Florida State Office of the Governor
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400 S. Monroe St.
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 3. Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.,
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Florida Department of Health
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 4. Larry McPherson, Jr., J.D., Board Director
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 5. Kaye Howerton, Board Director
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 6. Eric H. Holder, Jr.
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