



## STATE OF FLORIDA

**BILL McCOLLUM**  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

June 8, 2009

The Honorable Charlie Crist  
PL 05, The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Crist:

Every day in the state of Florida, we lose nine of our citizens to prescription drug abuse. Additionally, Florida's pharmacies and health clinics are viewed as an open market for those who come into our state, illegally obtain prescription drugs, and take them back to their state to be abused. As Florida's Attorney General, I believe that a top priority of government is to protect the people from crime and keep them safe.

Senate Bill 462, sponsored by Senator Mike Fasano and Representative Marcelo Llorente, creates a Prescription Drug Monitoring System in the Florida Department of Health. This comprehensive system will create a balanced approach to give law enforcement a vital tool to combat these destructive crimes, while protecting the privacy rights of Florida's patients. By tracking disbursement of the most serious controlled substances, law enforcement will be able to maximize their efforts to fight "doctor shopping", as well as to identify and stop the small percentage of doctors and clinics who continually write prescriptions to patients not based on medical necessity, but for illicit profit.

Through the efforts of my Office of Statewide Prosecution, we regularly investigate and prosecute those engaged in prescription drug diversion and unlawful pain clinics. These crimes are occurring in every corner of our state and they must be stopped.

I urge you to sign Senate Bill 462 into law and put an end to rampant prescription drug abuse.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill McCollum".

Bill McCollum