



FSIPP

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FLORIDA SOCIETY OF INTERVENTIONAL PAIN PHYSICIANS

May 8, 2017

Office of the Governor
Attn: Governor Rick Scott
Tallahassee, FL 08625

Dear Governor Scott,

The Florida Society of Interventional Pain Physicians (FSIPP) would like to thank you for rising to the challenge of combatting the substance abuse and the opioid crisis in the State of Florida. Your unrelenting support of this problem has been much appreciated by the pain management physicians in our State. The task of controlling or eliminating this killer epidemic will not be easy, but we believe you can succeed. Thank you from the families, community, physicians, and others who have been impacted by this crisis.

As an experienced “team” that has been involved with pain control, and more importantly, educating physicians and other health care providers in the appropriate and safe prescribing of controlled substances for pain, we are presenting a pledge to you. This pledge includes the FSIPP “Safe Opioid Prescribing Course”, which is an 8-hour course designed specifically for practitioners who prescribe controlled substances for chronic pain. Since 2010, it has been tremendously successful in educating and **changing prescribing habits**, resulting in safe and effective prescribing. In addition, FSIPP was integrally involved in Florida’s pill mill legislation. We are available to extend this education in the State of Florida in conjunction with the guidelines of your program and with further consideration at your request.

We at FSIPP support your recent announcement regarding the development of workshops to help combat the opioid epidemic. Several of our board members have expertise in both pain management and addiction, and serve on the board of our national parent organization, the American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians (ASIPP). ASIPP, which requires completion of a controlled substance management course for certification in interventional pain (American Board of Interventional Pain Physicians, ABIPP), has been effective nationally in education initiatives. In addition, ASIPP was instrumental in passage of the National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Reporting Act (NASPER) signed into law by President Bush in 2005.

The most comprehensive opioid guidelines for practitioners are available through ASIPP’s March edition of **Pain Physician**, one of the world’s most accessed pain journals. They are free to the community through the website asipp.org. In addition, we are presenting you with our compliments, a copy of the textbook **Controlled Substance Management in Chronic Pain: A balanced approach**, authored by Dr. Sanford Silverman, past president of FSIPP and Dr. Peter Staats, past president of ASIPP. It is a one of kind textbook on this subject and essentially a “safety manual” for practitioners who prescribe controlled substances for chronic pain.

FSIPP remains committed in the fight against 2 epidemics; the opioid crisis and chronic pain, which itself affects over 100 million people and results in over 28,000 suicides annually. Opioids can be prescribed safely and effectively, and FSIPP remains committed to that task.

Thank you for your consideration and the shared commitment to combat this devastating epidemic. We look forward to hearing from you and hope you will consider our organization to assist in the development of State wide initiatives in combating this epidemic.

Sincerely,

FSIPP
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