

From: Darla-Peoplepc [mailto:letournd@peoplepc.com]

Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2009 2:44 PM

To: Governor Crist (charlie.crist@myflorida.com); Lt. Gov. Jeff Kottkamp (jeff.kottkamp@myflorida.com); Rep. Gary Aubuchon (gary.aubuchon@myfloridahouse.gov); Rep. Ken Roberson (ken.roberson@myfloridahouse.gov); Rep. Nick Thompson (nick.thompson@myfloridahouse.gov); 'Rep. Paige Kreegel (paige.kreegel@myfloridahouse.gov)'; 'Rep. Trudi Williams (trudi.williams@myfloridahouse.gov)'; 'Senator Dave Aronberg (aronberg.dave.web@flsenate.gov)'; Senator Garrett (richter.garrett.web@flsenate.gov); 'Senator Mike Bennett (bennet.mike.web@flsenate.gov)'

Cc: Kevin Lewis; Bob Janes (dist1@leegov.com)

Subject: Find revenues to preserve substance abuse prevention

Dear State Legislators:

I am a resident of Lee County and have written you several times about the importance of funding critical human service programs, esp., substance abuse and mental health programs. I am now writing you to urge you to support new revenues so that these critical services can continue. Failing to fund these services will cost us more in terms of human tragedies, family fragmentation, and increased costs for all of us due to healthcare and criminal justice impacts. With a prison bed costing \$58,410 for the average 33 stay of a prisoner in Florida, spending \$5,968 for a drug treatment bed for the average 7 month stay is a major savings in public funds that also benefits the person and society at large.

I support doing what is needed during this crisis to make sure these essential services are there to respond to the needs of Floridian's impacted by the chronic disease of addictions. Here is a list of possible ways to increase revenues. You need to understand that Floridians want you to act now to assure these critical services are there that are more cost-effective than the consequence of not providing treatment when needed.

- Review and remove sales tax exemptions, exclusions and subsidies that are unfair and provide no overall benefit to Florida;
- Eliminate loopholes and exemptions in the corporate income tax that place Florida based businesses at a competitive disadvantage;
- Collect taxes on sales of goods over the Internet
- Increase the cigarette tax by one dollar per pack;
- Increase the non-cigarette tobacco products tax to 100% of the wholesale price;
- Temporarily increase the current sales tax by up to one cent and reduce it when additional revenues are raised from broadening the base and removing unfair loopholes;
- Close the loophole on Documentary Stamps;
- Increase the charge on designated trust funds for general government services by 20% ;
- Reintroduce the intangibles annual tax with a personal exemption set at \$250,000 and \$500,000 per couple;

- Consider progressive taxes that benefit the environment like taxing plastic bags used in grocery stores and reinstating a bottle bill;
- Consider the Seminole Gaming Compact

I hope I can count on you to support new revenue sources so that these desperately needed addiction and mental health services can continue. Now is the time for leadership and bold action.

Respectfully,
Darla

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