

Florida House of Representatives

Gayle B. Harrell

State Representative, 81st District

8000 South US Highway 1, Suite #201
Port St. Lucie, Florida 34952
Office: (772) 873-6500
Fax: (772) 873-6502

Room 210, House Office Bldg.
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399
(850) 488-8749

Re: Funding for NASPAR

To Whom It May Concern:

Diversion of prescription drugs for illegal purposes has become a major problem in Florida – one that clearly threatens the health and well being of our citizens. More people die from prescription drug abuse in Florida than from the abuse of cocaine and heroine combined.

In an attempt to address this epidemic, the Legislature in Florida has debated the establishment of an electronic prescription drug registry for the past six years. As the sponsor of this legislation for the past five years, I have encountered great difficulty in passing a drug registry program for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is funding for such a system.

The National All Schedules Prescription Electronic Act (NASPER) could provide a major weapon against prescription drug abuse. It has great potential to limit prescription drug abuse not only within states, but across state lines. Although the bill was signed into law, it has yet to be funded.

The lack of funding for NASPAR directly impacts the ability of states to address this problem. Had there been federal funding for such an electronic drug registry in Florida, one of the major hurdles that we have had to address would have been overcome. Hence, I would urge the US Congress to allocate funds for this program.

Sincerely,



Gayle Harrell,
Rep. District 81