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To: The Governor's Appointment Office
The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0001

03/08/10

Re: Questionnaire for Gubernatorial Appointments (attached)

To whom it may concern,

I am applying for appointment to the Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine. The Florida Department of Law Enforcement F.D.L.E. has repeatedly documented in their annual *Medical Examiner's Report of Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons* the ever escalating number of prescription drug related deaths in our state, totaling many thousands over the past decade. Twice during this period - first in 2005 and then again this year - I have petitioned the Board of Osteopathic Medicine to implement an emergency rule to deal with this dilemma in a direct and forthright manner (see copies attached). The Boards of Medicine have used such statewide emergency rules in the past - in 2000, rules 64B8ER00-1, 64B8ER00-3, and 64B8ER00-4 to address 5 deaths from in-office liposuction - so they have both a legal and ethical obligation to use this power now. Unfortunately, the Board of Osteopathic Medicine, for reasons of its own, has elected to ignore both of my requests. In doing so they continue to fail in fulfilling their stated mission to "promote, *protect* and improve the health of all people in Florida" - even those who are unnecessarily dependent upon pain medications.

It is no secret that Florida has a critical pain-medication, pill-mill problem. Its scope and depth was most recently documented by the 2009 Broward County's State Attorney Grand Jury Investigation into this tragedy. Perhaps the most tragic part of this situation is that Florida state licensed physicians are at the heart of this drug-dealing crisis. Worst yet is the ineffectual path of action the Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine has chosen to pursue in its tepid attempts to deal with this emergency. The F.D.L.E. annual drug death reports continually grade their ongoing failure. Therefore, I feel it is my obligation and duty as both a citizen and physician to offer my services directly to the people of Florida as a member of the Florida Board of Osteopathic Medicine, in order to put an end to this stain on the reputation of both my profession and our state.

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert Ben Mitchell, D.O.

attached: 1. Questionnaire for Gubernatorial Appointments (8 pages).
 2. 2005 Emergency Rule Proposal (6 pages).
 3. 2010 Emergency Rule Proposal (4 pages).