

Give addicts help, not prison

The Legislature recently made a wonderful step in the right direction. In a bipartisan showing, the legislation proposed by Reps. Katie Edwards, D-Plantation, and Dave Hood, R-Daytona Beach, as well as Sen. Rob Bradley, R-Fleming Island, which dramatically increases the amount of prescription narcotic pain medication levels subject to mandatory minimum sentencing laws, passed. Bipartisan politics have been thrown aside in the name of common-sense solutions to the problem of low-level, nonviolent drug abusers being subject to minimum mandatory jail sentences for feeding their addictions. These sponsors identified those problems and took huge strides toward reforming our state's drug sentencing. The legislation now awaits the governor's signature.

The citizens of Florida who suffer prescription drug addictions can receive the counseling and drug treatment they need much more economically than being warehoused in our prisons and labeled as felons.

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