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For Immediate Release

Congressman Vern Wermer Drops the Hammer to Pill Mill Abusers

Families Are Torn Apart When Legal Substances are Used in Illegal Ways

Today, Congressman Vern Wermer, (FL-28), a member of the House Ways & Means Health Subcommittee, reintroduced legislation that would strengthen the barriers needed to stop the rampant abuse of prescription drugs nationwide.

Supported by leaders in the House and Senate, the Pill Mill Crackdown Act of 2012 would reclassify hydrocodone-combination drugs. This policy shift would direct patients to visit a doctor on a regular basis for review and reconsideration before receiving another prescription. This medical precaution is an important monitoring tool for health care professionals and law enforcement officers. In addition, the law doubles the prison sentence and triples the fine for pill mill operators. Under the law, commonly sold drugs such as Vicodin will be monitored at a heightened level in an effort to compile hard data indicating various distribution hot spots.

“Our beautiful state has an ugly problem,” stated the Congressman before a large group of law enforcement officials. “Families everywhere are being ripped apart by compulsive drug use of legal substances used illegally. These deadly narcotics kill seven Floridians every single day. Most disconcerting to me, teens throughout the eastern coast are moving toward cheaper, more deadly alternatives. These pill mills, operated by abusive actors, must be stopped permanently.”

On Thursday, a bipartisan group of more than 57 bill co-sponsors sent a letter to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism and Homeland Security. After a full vote on the House floor, Rep. Wermer plans to reunite with 2011 Senate champions and send a bill to the White House for final approval.

“This is one of the most important fights of the year for me. A healthy workforce, a healthy home and a healthy state are absolutely critical factors for the vibrancy and safety of Florida.”

If you would like more information about this topic or to schedule an interview with Rep. Vern Wermer, please call our communications director at (202) 225-1234.

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