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**Florida PDMP Foundation Fund Raising Total Now Over \$500,000**

*--Funds will allow the Department of Health to Implement Florida's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program--*

**TALLAHASSEE** –The Office of Drug Control is pleased to announce that the Florida PDMP Foundation, Inc. has surpassed the halfway mark of its initial effort to raise \$1 million to establish the Florida Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) by December 1, 2010. Achieving this milestone is helping to kick-start funding for the non-profit organization's mission to assist the Department of Health establish the PDMP. The Florida PDMP Foundation-working collaboratively with the Florida Office of Drug Control and the Florida Department of Health-has been successful in raising more than \$500,000 in donations from the private and philanthropic sectors with more donations expected to follow in the coming months.

Therapeutic drug monitoring company Millennium Laboratories is one of the Florida PDMP Foundation's private sector donors. Millennium has contributed \$312,000 to the Florida PDMP Foundation, including a recent donation of \$250,000. The generosity of this health care company will help ensure the PDMP is successfully implemented. The Office of Drug Control greatly appreciates this substantial donation provided to the Foundation.

James Slattery, the Foundation's outgoing Chairman and Millennium Laboratories' CEO recently said, "We are very pleased to have reached this important funding milestone in the Foundation's progress. The hard-working members of the Foundation are leading the way in establishing the Foundation on a solid footing so that it can serve the needs of the Florida Department of Health's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program."

Florida's Office of Drug Control Director, Bruce D. Grant, remarked, "It is exceptionally gratifying to see the present success of the Florida PDMP Foundation's fund-raising efforts. James Slattery has been an outstanding chair of the Foundation. We will miss him as the Foundation's Chairman. He has set the bar high with his leadership. We are very grateful to him for his service."

Florida PDMP Foundation Vice-Chairman David Bowen is currently the Acting Chairman of the Florida PDMP Foundation. Mr. Bowen commented, "The generous support of Millennium Laboratories is a clear example of public and private partnerships coming together to create the necessary assistance for Florida's prescription drug monitoring program. The Foundation is relying on the continuing contributions of private and philanthropic donors and organizations, and especially those commercial companies involved with health care to help the Foundation meet our goals."

**Florida PDMP Foundation, Inc.**

The Florida PDMP Foundation, Inc. was established effective January 11, 2010 to provide fund-raising for the PDMP. The Foundation's fund-raising will be extremely crucial for the ability of the Department of Health to establish and then operate the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. Its initial fund-raising goal to establish the PDMP is \$1,000,000; starting July 1, 2011 the annual goal to meet the PDMP's operating expenses is \$750,000. The PDMP will improve patient standard of care and detect and prevent controlled substance abuse and diversion by "doctor shoppers" and "pill mills." Therefore, the PDMP Foundation will ultimately help reduce the loss of seven Floridian lives per day, the number of addicted Floridians and help change Florida's reputation as a "source" state due to prescription drug abuse and diversion.

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