



For Immediate Release:
(561) 355-2206
April 1, 2019

MELISSA MCKINLAY

**County Commissioner
District 6**

Palm Beach County
Board of County Commissioners



Governmental Center
301 North Olive Avenue, 12th Floor
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Telephone: (561) 355-2206
Facsimile: (561) 355-4366

mmckinlay@pbcgov.org



Glades Office Complex
2976 State Road #15
Belle Glade, FL 33430

Telephone: (561) 996-4814
Facsimile: (561) 992-1038



www.pbcgov.com

*"An Equal Opportunity
Affirmative Action Employer"*

Official Electronic Letterhead

**Palm Beach County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay Applauds
DeSantis Decision to Reopen Office of Drug Control**

Palm Beach County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay today applauded the announcement by Governor Ron DeSantis that he was re-establishing the Office of Drug Control, an office created by former Governor Jeb Bush but discontinued under former Governor Rick Scott. Despite repeated calls to do so, Governor Scott refused to reopen the office despite the sharp rise in opioid deaths during his tenure.

"Governor DeSantis' decision to reopen the Office of Drug Control is a significant moment in Florida's fight against addiction," Commissioner McKinlay said. "As this epidemic rages on, it is great news that our new Governor recognizes the value of this office to focus attention on the crisis and enhance intergovernmental efforts to save lives."

Commissioner McKinlay also applauded the Governor's decision to create a statewide opioid task force, chaired by Attorney General Ashley Moody. On December 4, 2018, Commissioner McKinlay and her fellow commissioners included a resolution in Palm Beach County's state legislative agenda in support of the establishment of a statewide opioid task force.

"Communities across Florida are desperate for our state government to develop a comprehensive strategy to address the opioid crisis," Commissioner McKinlay said. "A statewide task force is an essential step forward to developing the policies that will save the lives of our fellow Floridians."

In 2016, Tasha McCraw, the daughter of Commissioner McKinlay's former aide, lost her life to addiction. In Tasha's memory, Commissioner McKinlay continues to fight to save the lives of those suffering from addiction.

###