

# **Senator Latvala to Hold Opioid Crisis Roundtable in Palm Beach County**

**At the invitation of Senator Kevin Rader and County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay, Sen. Latvala will hold opioid crisis roundtable on August 8**

**Clearwater, FL** – Senator Jack Latvala, Chairman of the Florida Senate Appropriations Committee, announced today that he will hold a roundtable discussion on the opioid epidemic next month in Palm Beach County. Latvala was invited by Senator Kevin Rader and Palm Beach County Commissioner Melissa McKinlay to visit Palm Beach County to learn first-hand about the issues surrounding the epidemic of opioid overdoses.

“Opioid abuse is a crisis facing our entire state. It’s costing lives and money. In fact, Florida hospital charges related to the heroin epidemic top \$4 million a day,” Latvala said. “But the crisis seems to be affecting Palm Beach County more than many other parts of the state with more than 300 opioid overdoses in Palm Beach County already this year. Senator Rader and Commissioner McKinlay have worked particularly hard to bring attention to the issue. I want to visit and hear directly from the professionals and families involved with the issue,” Latvala added.

During the first five months of this year there were 311 opioid overdoses in Palm Beach County compared to 258 over same period in 2016. Last year there were a total of 592 opioid-related deaths in Palm Beach County alone.

Senator Latvala’s roundtable will be Tuesday, August 8 from 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon in Room PSD 108 at Palm Beach State College located at 4200 Congress Avenue in Lake Worth, Florida.

Florida received a total of \$54 million federal grant money to address the opioid crisis. State spending of the grant money is managed through the budget which is administered in the Senate by the Appropriations Committee.