

Jupiter mother hopes new 'pill mill' law helps other families before it is too late

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2011-06-04 00:16:01



JUPITER, Fla. -- The news that Governor Rick Scott has just signed the 'pill mill' bill meant to help deal with prescription drug abuse, is especially good news for a woman from Jupiter.

"We got the knock on the door at 2 o'clock in the morning, two deputies standing outside our door and told us that our son had died," explained Karen Perry.

Karen Perry of Jupiter says her son Richard Jr. was just 21-years-old when he died of a drug overdose in Orlando where he attended college.

"It was just devastating. It still at times is unbelievable. I still have to pinch myself and say is he really not coming back?" said Perry.

He died in June 2003 from a combination of prescription drugs, cocaine and heroin. She says her son bought some of the drugs from his college roommate, who was doctor shopping, getting several doctors to write the same prescription for drugs such as oxycontin.

"He had 3 different doctors prescribing him the same pill," said Perry.

Perry, who started a non-profit drug prevention group called NOPE after her son died, says she applauds the new law.

"This is a great start in preventing some of those overdose deaths," said Perry.

The new law will penalize doctors who over-prescribe painkillers, tighten rules for pharmacies and it will authorize a prescription-drug monitoring computer database.