

**PLEASE VETO THE MARIJUANA TRAFFICKING BILL – HB 173**

June \_\_\_\_, 2008

Office of Gov. Charlie Crist  
400 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001  
(850) 488-7146  
Fax: (850) 487-0801

Dear Gov. Crist:

Please veto HB173/SB390, which would send Florida citizens to jail for up to 5 years and fine them \$5,000 for growing 25 marijuana plants. This callous bill would also send parents to prison for 30 years and fine them \$10,000 for growing marijuana in the presence of a child. This legislation is insensitive to the fact that many people grow marijuana for their own personal use and are not drug dealers at all.

Normally, this type of sentencing is used to punish those who are actually trafficking marijuana. However, this legislation makes the ridiculous assumption that anyone with 25 marijuana plants is a drug dealer. Worse, it requires absolutely no evidence of intent to distribute marijuana. Such a law will do nothing but pack our already overcrowded jails with citizens who never had any intention of selling marijuana.

I hope that you can appreciate why I think such a law would be unjust – it will surely ruin the lives of otherwise good and productive members of society by labeling them as felons, separating them from their families, and throwing them into a system that will only expose them to more crime and abuse.

Sincerely,

---

(signature)

---

(printed name)

---

(address)

---

(phone number)