



**CHARLIE CRIST**  
GOVERNOR

April 10, 2008

Secretary Kurt S. Browning  
Secretary of State  
R.A. Gray Building  
500 S. Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

FILED  
2008 APR 10 PM 3:56  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Dear Secretary Browning:

By the authority vested in me as Governor of Florida, under the provisions of Article III, Section 8, of the Constitution of Florida, I do hereby transmit House Bill 7037, with my signature, enacted during the 110<sup>th</sup> Session of the Legislature of Florida, since statehood in 1845, during the Regular Session of 2008 and entitled:

An act relating to relief of Alan Jerome Crotzer...

House Bill 7037 provides compensation to Alan Crotzer for over 24 years of wrongful imprisonment. While no amount of compensation can remove the emotional trauma inflicted on an innocent person by an undeserved pronouncement of guilt, nor retrieve years lost to walls and razor wire, it is my sincere hope that this bill will provide a small measure of relief to Mr. Crotzer and his family.

Our system of justice is a model to the world, yet it is not free of imperfections arising from the fallibilities of its human participants. Society, however, should answer the moral imperative to provide relief when the system fails with tragic consequences. With this bill, the Legislature has responded to that duty with wisdom and compassion.

Throughout his incarceration, Alan did not lose faith that he would one day be exonerated and he persevered until he regained his freedom. On behalf of the people of Florida, I wish to express sincere regret for the circumstances which caused Mr. Crotzer's wrongful incarceration. I wish him and his family a better future. Thus, I hereby sign into law, House Bill 7037.

Sincerely,

Charlie Crist