



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

June 19, 2007

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

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TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
2007 JUN 19 PM 5:13
FILED

Dear Secretary Browning:

By the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Florida, under the provisions of Article III, Section 8, of the Constitution of Florida, I do hereby withhold my approval of and transmit to you my objections to, Council Substitute for House Bill 97, enacted during the 109th Session of the Legislature of Florida, since statehood in 1845, during the Regular Session of 2007 and entitled:

An act relating to Medicare supplement policies ...

This bill exempts policies offered by employers that have at least 50 employees from the Medicare supplement policy regulations administered and enforced by the Office of Insurance Regulation.

I am firmly committed to securing the availability, safety and affordability of health care for seniors. The Office of Insurance Regulation currently regulates the purchase of Medicare Supplement policies for individuals and employers to ensure consumer protection for Florida's aging population. Currently, there are 90 insurers carrying these policies in Florida, with 40 insurers writing new policies. I believe consumers have ample choice in a competitive and flourishing market. Accordingly, I do not see a need to reduce the protections provided through this regulation and possibly increase the vulnerability of Florida's senior citizens.

For these reasons, I withhold my approval of Council Substitute for House Bill 97, and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

Charlie Crist

CC/dmm