



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

June 25, 2008

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

2008 JUN 25 PM 7:12
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

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, Committee Substitute for House Bill 1193, enacted during the 110th Session of the Legislature of Florida, since statehood in 1845, during the Regular Session of 2008 and entitled:

An act relating to maternal and child health programs...

This bill authorizes several changes to the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Because this program serves the most vulnerable among us, I have carefully scrutinized the changes to ensure that the program maximizes dollars spent on services that improve people's lives.

Due to provisions in the bill that change the way vouchers would be produced and redeemed, this legislation would result in significant additional costs to the administration of WIC. These costs would directly reduce the number of Floridians who are able to receive services.

Florida's Department of Health is in the process of developing a plan to transition our WIC program from a paper voucher to an EBT system, and is working with federal regulators to generate funds to implement this plan. I am confident that through this deliberative process, Florida's WIC system will improve its efficiency while continuing to serve those who benefit from its services.

For these reasons, I withhold my approval of Committee Substitute for House Bill 1193 and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlie Crist".

Charlie Crist