



**CHARLIE CRIST**  
GOVERNOR

June 23, 2008

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

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 Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 686, enacted during the 40th Session of the Legislature of Florida, convened under the Constitution of 1968, during the Regular Session of 2008 and entitled:

An act relating to nursing facilities ...

This bill makes several changes to nursing home regulatory rules. Notably, the bill revises the manner in which nursing facilities report and investigate adverse incidents that relate to residents. Under current Florida law, nursing facilities must notify Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) within one business day of an adverse incident. This bill deletes this requirement and instead permits the facility's internal risk manager to determine if an incident was adverse before filing the report. Current law provides the opportunity for AHCA to investigate incidents, as it deems appropriate, in order to prescribe measures that should be taken. I believe that facilities responsible for providing care to our most vulnerable citizens must remain under strict scrutiny and existing law provides for this accountability and oversight.

I am committed to ensuring the highest standards of care to protect the safety and dignity of Florida's seniors. Throughout my career, I have worked to reduce abuse and neglect against seniors, and I do not believe the state should take any steps backwards in these efforts.

For these reasons, I withhold my approval of Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 686, and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

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

Charlie Crist

FILED  
2008 JUN 25 PM 7  
TALLAHASSEE, FL