



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

June 10, 2009

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

Dear Secretary Browning:

By the authority vested in me as the Governor of Florida, and under the provisions of Article III, Section 8, of the Constitution of Florida, I do hereby transmit Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1122 with my signature, enacted during the 41st Session of the Legislature of Florida, convened under the Constitution of 1968, during the Regular Session of 2008 and entitled:

An act relating to health care...

This bill makes a significant change to the payment relationship between a health insurance carrier and out-of-network providers. All too often, out-of-network providers that care for individuals insured by preferred provider organization networks are not reimbursed for their services under the existing payment structure. For this reason, many providers are reluctant to care for out-of-network individuals, thus reducing access to health care. As a result, individuals may not get the opportunity to see the provider of their choice.

I am pleased that this legislation removes a health care access barrier that hindered a provider's right to receive payment for rendering services. Currently, insured individuals receive the payment directly from their health insurance carrier and do not always pay the provider for the care they have received. This legislation allows direct payment for services rendered by out-of-network providers thus, reducing fraud and preventing misuse of insurance benefits.

For these reasons, I hereby sign into law Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1122.

Sincerely,

Charlie Crist