



CHARLIE CRIST
GOVERNOR

June 28, 2007

Mr. 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 Senate Bill 682, enacted during the 39th Session of the Legislature of Florida, convened under the Constitution of 1968, during the Regular Session of 2007 and entitled:

An act relating to nursing facilities ...

This bill makes several changes to nursing home regulatory rules. Most notably, the bill revises the frequency of nursing home quality-of-care reviews conducted by the Agency for Health Care Administration. Under current Florida law, quality-of-care monitors visit each nursing home quarterly to assess the overall quality of life and conditions of care in the facility. This bill reduces the frequency of these quality-of-care visits from quarterly to annually. 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 Senate Bill 682, and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

Charlie Crist

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TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

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