



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH DUDEK
SECRETARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 19, 2015

Contact: AHCA Communications Office
AHCACommunications@ahca.myflorida.com
(850) 412-3623

Commission Chairman Sends Letter to Legislative Leaders Regarding Proposed Legislation on Health Care Transparency

Tallahassee, Fla. – Today, Carlos Beruff, Chairman of the Commission on Healthcare and Hospital Funding sent the below and attached letter to President Andy Gardiner and Speaker Steve Crisafulli regarding Governor Scott's proposed legislation on health care transparency.

November 19, 2015

The Honorable Andy Gardiner
President, The Florida Senate
Room 409, The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

The Honorable Steve Crisafulli
Speaker, The Florida House of Representatives
Room 420, The Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear President Gardiner and Speaker Crisafulli:

On May 5th, 2015, Governor Rick Scott signed an Executive Order creating the Commission on Healthcare and Hospital Funding. Governor Scott's order underscored the need for Florida families to have access to affordable healthcare services from quality providers.

The Governor directed the Commission to investigate the impact of taxpayer funded hospital services on healthcare costs, access, outcomes, and satisfaction; and the impact of certificate of need laws on affordability, access and quality of healthcare services. To maximize transparency, the Commission was also directed to publically share all information considered, including stories from over 100 Floridians who believe they have been price gouged by Florida hospitals.

Since May, the Commission has held 11 meetings to hear from healthcare experts, providers and consumers. Early in our review, it became clear that consumers lack access to information to adequately judge the cost and quality of services at Florida hospitals.



As a result of the issues presented to the Commission, we are asking you to support significant reforms to improve the transparency of cost and quality at hospitals, and enhance consumer protections from unexpected healthcare bills. Although our deliberations are not complete and we anticipate additional recommendations, the Commission's work thus far has helped inform the Governor's proposed bill. We endorse the Governor's proposal and request you consider this legislation for passage during the 2016 Legislative Session.

Sincerely,

Carlos Beruff, Chair

cc: The Honorable Rick Scott, Governor

The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida's Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 45,000 health care facilities and 34 health maintenance organizations, and publishes health care data and statistics at www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov. Additional information about Agency initiatives is available via [Facebook \(AHCAFlorida\)](#), [Twitter \(@AHCA_FL\)](#) and [YouTube \(/AHCAFlorida\)](#).

###