

June 3, 2005

Ms. Glenda E. Hood
Secretary of State
Florida Department of State
R. A. Gray Building
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Secretary Hood:

By the authority vested in me as Governor of Florida, under the provisions of Article III, Section 8, of the Constitution of Florida, I do hereby withhold my approval of Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1180, enacted during the 37th Session of the Legislature of Florida convened under the Constitution of 1968, during the Regular Session of 2005, and entitled:

An act relating to the practice of medicine . . .

This bill modifies the composition of the Board of Medicine, authorizes the Board to develop an externship that may be chosen in place of a residency, and creates a defense for physicians in disciplinary proceedings if they relied in good faith on the representations of a drug manufacturer.

While I support the concept of increased consumer involvement on the Board of Medicine, I have the following concerns with this bill.

First, the "externship" program authorized by the bill bypasses well established procedures for accreditation of physician post-graduate medical training programs (residencies). The bill offers no definition for "externships" and fails to provide sufficient guidance to the Board of Medicine, which is tasked with determining a curriculum that is "substantially equivalent" to residency programs. The Board's expertise does not extend to credentialing of educational programs, nor can it be expected to develop these capabilities. The bill, therefore, jeopardizes time-tested credentialing standards for licensure in Florida in a way that could ultimately affect patient safety.

Second, the bill provides a broad defense for a physician accused of a violation if the wrongdoing was unintentional and the physician relied in good faith on the

Ms. Glenda E. Hood
June 3, 2005
Page Two

representations of a drug manufacturer. The scope of this protection is not well defined and it invites litigation.

It is for the reasons above that I withhold my approval of Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1180.

Sincerely,

Jeb Bush