



Florida House of Representatives

Council for Healthy Communities
Committee on Health Regulation

Tom Feeney
Speaker

Frank Farkas
Chair

July 23, 2001

Robert G. Brooks, M.D.
Secretary
Florida Department of Health
4052 Bald Cypress Way
Bin A01
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1702

Re: Committee on Health Regulation Interim Study for 2001-2002

Dear Dr. Brooks:

During the 2001 session, the Legislature passed legislation to substantially reduce the administrative costs of regulating health care practitioners while maintaining appropriate levels of regulation necessary to ensure patient safety and quality patient care. According to information provided to our committee by your department, these changes will reduce the cost of regulation during this next fiscal year by approximately \$15 million. In addition to reducing the cost of regulation to the government, the Legislature passed provisions to reduce the paperwork and other administrative burdens placed on the private health care sector.

Despite the many achievements during the last session, there are still people who believe that the quality of practitioner regulation can be improved by privatizing more of the functions currently performed by the state. Concerns have been expressed that the costs billed to the individual professions do not directly correspond to the quality and quantity of services provided to the profession. In response to these concerns, the Speaker has authorized an interim study on the feasibility of privatizing administrative functions relating to health care practitioners.

I have asked my committee staff to contact your legislative planning office to schedule an initial conference for this week. Our goal is to have a preliminary report completed by the beginning of September. I respectfully request the cooperation of your department, and the organizations with which you contract, so that a thorough study can be conducted in this short timeframe.

If you have any questions regarding this study, please contact Lucretia Shaw Collins, Staff Director, or Wendy Smith Hansen, Senior Attorney, at 487-3771, or contact me in my district

Dr. Brooks
July 23, 2001
Page 2

office at 727-893-9855. I look forward to working with you to ensure that the highest quality of service is provided to current and future health care practitioners and to the patients for whom the system is designed to protect.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank Farkas". To the right of the signature is a small circular stamp or mark.

Frank Farkas, D.C.
Chair

FF/wh

cc: The Honorable Laura Branker, Acting Secretary, Agency for Health Care Administration
The Honorable Sandra Murman, Council Chair, Council for Healthy Communities
The Honorable Burt Saunders, Chair, Senate Health, Aging & Long-term Care Comm.
Charles Ross, D.D.S., Chair, Florida Board of Dentistry
Michael Hansen, Executive Office of the Governor, Office of Planning and Budgeting
Donald Cadle, D.M.D., President, Florida Dental Association
Lindy Kennedy, Director, D.O.H. Office of Legislative Planning
Gloria Crawford Henderson, Director, Division of Medical Quality Assurance
Sue Foster, Executive Director, Florida Board of Dentistry