

June 25, 2007

The Honorable Charlie Crist
Governor
State of Florida
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399

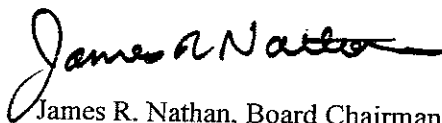
Dear Governor Crist:

Congratulations on your first six months as Governor and for your accomplishments on behalf of the people of Florida. Your tireless commitment to our citizens has resulted in reduced property insurance premiums and an historic cut in property taxes. Unfortunately, one issue remains that has the potential of impacting all Floridians and the hospitals that serve their communities: the sunset of no-fault motor vehicle insurance or personal injury protection (PIP) on October 1, 2007.

The Florida Hospital Association (FHA) has continued to advocate for an extension and reform of PIP or replacement with some form of mandatory medical coverage. The bottom line is that if PIP is repealed, all Floridians will have less motor vehicle insurance coverage but will pay more for bodily injury coverage, uninsured motorist coverage, collision coverage, and health insurance; there will be more litigation; Florida's trauma system and emergency room care will be strained to the breaking point; and access to vital healthcare services will be threatened.

In an effort to avoid a crisis and ensure Florida's hospitals, trauma centers, and physicians are there to protect our patients, FHA requests you convene a special session to extend and reform PIP or ask the Legislature to replace PIP with some form of mandatory medical payment insurance. The leadership you demonstrated on the issues of property insurance and taxes is needed to prevent the sunset of PIP and create irreparable harm to our citizens. FHA looks forward to supporting your efforts on PIP and is prepared to work with you.

Sincerely,



James R. Nathan, Board Chairman
Florida Hospital Association

Enclosures:

- (1) FHA Board Resolution
- (2) List of Partner Organizations
- (3) Newspaper Editorials



An Association of Hospitals & Health Systems

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Florida Hospital Association Board of Trustees met on June 22, 2007, to discuss its concerns regarding the October 1, 2007, sunset of Florida's no-fault motor vehicle insurance law, including mandatory Personal Injury Protection (PIP) for motorists;

WHEREAS, for 36 years, PIP has provided accident victims with access to crucial healthcare services and timely insurance coverage for injuries;

WHEREAS, more than four million Floridians have no other motor vehicle insurance coverage besides PIP;

WHEREAS, in a state where one-in-four Floridians under age 65 have no health insurance coverage, PIP is the only source of coverage available to pay for life-saving healthcare services;

WHEREAS, 40 percent of all patients treated for motor vehicle accidents in Florida's hospital emergency rooms and trauma centers have no health insurance coverage to pay for treatments other than PIP, and may face personal financial disaster without it;

WHEREAS, without PIP, many accident victims would have to wait for results of time-consuming, expensive litigation to determine fault before receiving compensation for bodily injuries or property damage in motor vehicle crashes;

WHEREAS, the loss of PIP would hurt all Floridians – not just accident victims – because:

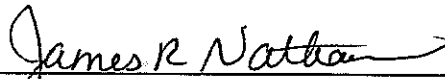
- *medical costs now covered by PIP will be transferred to health insurers and HMOs, increasing the cost of employer-sponsored insurance and making it more costly for employers to offer health insurance to their employees;*
- *fault must be determined in virtually every case and therefore accident victims would have to await results of time-consuming, expensive litigation before receiving compensation to pay for medical services or property damage repairs; and*
- *citizens will see no real savings in their motor vehicle insurance premiums by eliminating PIP, as drivers will have to pay more for Bodily Injury Liability (BI) and Uninsured Motorist (UM) coverage.*

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida Hospital Association Board of Trustees recognizes and appreciates that Governor Charlie Crist has already expressed concern publicly about the sunset of PIP. The Board respectfully urges the Governor to take the following actions to avert a healthcare crisis that will impact all Floridians:

1. Call the Florida Legislature back into a special session to address no-fault motor vehicle insurance/PIP prior to the scheduled October 1, 2007, sunset of the law;
2. Urge the Legislature to either **EXTEND PIP** for now so that it doesn't expire without alternative coverage in place; or
3. **REPLACE PIP** with alternative mandatory medical coverage for drivers and passengers.

Florida's hospitals, as leaders of a statewide coalition of physician groups, first responders, health insurers, and safe-driving advocates, pledge to stand in support of Governor Crist as he embarks on the initiatives set out above.

Approved June 22, 2007
Tallahassee, Florida


James R. Nathan
Chair, FHA Board of Trustees
President, Lee Memorial Health
System, Inc.


Wayne NeSmith
President
Florida Hospital Association

PIP Coalition Members

Florida Hospital Association
Florida Alliance of Safetynet Hospitals
Florida Statutory Teaching Hospital Council
South Florida Hospital and Healthcare Association
Florida Society of Ambulatory Surgical Centers
Florida Trauma Alliance
Florida Nurses Association
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida
Florida Fire Chiefs' Association
Florida College of Emergency Physicians
Florida Ambulance Association
Association of EMS Providers
Florida College of Orthopedic Surgeons
Florida Academy of Healthcare Attorneys
Florida Association for Managed Care Professionals
Florida Association for Patient Financial Services
Florida Association for Quality Coordinated Care
Florida Association of Healthcare Government Relations Executives
Florida Association of Healthcare Recruiters
Florida Healthcare Administrative Professionals Association
Florida Healthcare Corporate Compliance Association
Florida Society for Healthcare Education and Training
Florida Society for Healthcare Human Resources Administration
Florida Society for Healthcare Public Relations and Marketing
Florida Society for Healthcare Risk Management & Patient Safety
Florida Society for Healthcare Security, Safety and Emergency Management
Professionals
Florida Society for Hospital-Based Skilled Nursing Facilities
Florida Society for Patient Representatives
Florida Society for Rehabilitation
Florida Society of Healthcare Environmental Services
Florida Society of Hospital Physician Executives
Hospital Home Care Association of Florida
Hospital Wellness Association