



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

April 14, 2016

Secretary Kenneth W. Detzner
Secretary of State
Florida Department of State
R.A. Gray Building
500 S. Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

2016 APR 14 PM 12:42
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

FILED

Dear Secretary Detzner:

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 veto and transmit my objections to Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill 139, enacted during the 118th Session of the Legislature of Florida, during the Regular Session of 2016 and entitled:

An act relating to dental care...

The bill directs the Department of Health to annually create up to ten dental care access accounts, which would provide grants in an amount between \$10,000 and \$100,000 to dentists who choose to practice in medically underserved areas. While I agree with the bill sponsors that maintaining good oral health is integral to the overall health of Florida families, I cannot support a program that does not place appropriate safeguards on taxpayer investments. The bill does not require dentists who receive taxpayer dollars to hire a specific number of new employees or to serve a certain number of low-income patients each year. Furthermore, the bill opens the door for state dollars to be used to incentivize other high-income professionals.

Additionally, the bill is duplicative of existing programs. Pediatric and adult dental benefits are provided for Medicaid recipients through the Statewide Medicaid Managed Care Program and pediatric dental services are available through Florida KidCare. Furthermore, the large majority of County Health Departments and Community Health Centers provide Florida families in rural communities access to dental services.

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Page Two

For the reasons stated above, I withhold my approval of Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill 139 and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "RS" followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Rick Scott
Governor