

FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

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MICHAEL B. SHEEDY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



February 14, 2017

The Hon. Jason Brodeur
Chairman, House Healthcare Appropriations Subcommittee
221 The Capitol
402 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32309-1300

Re: Serious Concern with Proposed Navigant LTC Funding Mechanism

Dear Chairman Brodeur:

We applaud the interest in exploring Florida's Medicaid long-term care reimbursement mechanism in a budget neutral manner. It is our concern that the reimbursement mechanism proposed by the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA)/Navigant will harm the quality of care throughout the system. Higher quality care often entails greater costs, specifically for direct patient care, qualified personnel and facilities operation.

Higher Quality Providers Harmed/Lower Quality Rewarded

The AHCA/Navigant proposal would penalize the 143 nursing homes that have achieved 4-5 Star Ratings by CMS (some with the Gold Seal Award for Excellence) and reward 86 nursing homes that have 1-2 Star Rating by CMS. The AHCA/Navigant proposal fails to require that the lower rated homes use the "new money" to improve direct care services, update their facilities, and the like.

Avoid Race-to-Bottom: Reject AHCA/Navigant Mechanism

To protect the overall quality of the nursing home industry and to avoid a "race to the bottom", the legislature should reject any Medicaid reimbursement plan that rewards poor performers at the expense of higher quality care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. McQuone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael J. McQuone
Associate Director for Health

cc: Most Rev. Thomas Wenski, President & Archbishop of Miami
Kerry Eaton, Chair, FCCB Catholic Health Executives Committee &
COO, Sacred Health Health System
Michael B. Sheedy