



MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

2401 S.E. MONTEREY ROAD • STUART, FL 34996

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County Administrator

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February 9, 2012

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Representative William Snyder
District 82
410 House Office Building
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Representative Snyder:

I am writing on behalf of the Martin County Board of County Commissioners to express our serious concerns and objection to a proposal contained in the Department of Health reorganization bill (HB 1263).

Of specific concern in the bill is the strike-all amendment, passed by the House Health & Human Services Quality Subcommittee on Monday that would require Counties to take over their local County Health Departments with the State establishing block grants. We are now hearing that the Governor's Office and Senate are not ready to undertake such a large proposal at this time and there is uncertainty over whether this will be considered further. However, should this proposal somehow move forward, we would like to express our opposition as this appears to potentially be a significant unfunded mandate.

Martin County contributes \$710,026 annually towards our County Health Department. The total funded by the State is approximately \$3.8 million (direct contribution excluding any fees, Medicaid contributions or any other funds). Of that \$3.8 million, \$1.67 million is federally funded. We have a number of questions regarding how those funds would be recaptured giving this proposal. Would Martin County have to compete for block grants? How would federal funding that the county health departments receive be impacted? Because the formula would be based on per capita, how would that affect smaller counties like Martin County and our level of service? How would other potential costs, such as administrative and operating costs like IT services, be absorbed?

Due to these concerns and others regarding this significant change, we respectfully oppose this proposal.

Sincerely,

Edward V. Ciampi, Chairman
Martin County Board of County Commissioners

EVC/kp/dg

c: Martin County Board of County Commissioners
Taryn Kryzda, County Administrator

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