



Florida House of Representatives
HOUSE MAJORITY OFFICE

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Tallahassee, Florida
32399-1300

Adam Hasner
Majority Leader

322 The Capitol
(850) 488-1993

November 4, 2009

Senator Bill Nelson
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator George LeMieux
356 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Nelson and LeMieux:

As the health care reform debate in Washington progresses, we wanted to bring an issue of concern to your attention relating to proposals to dramatically expand Medicaid which will impact the State of Florida's budget and place our state's ability to create jobs in jeopardy.

Floridians are justifiably concerned with our state and nation's troubled economy and its effects on them, their families and their communities. As members of the Florida House of Representatives, our top priority is to help get Florida's economy restarted and create jobs for Floridians. We know that you share these goals as well.

It is with that priority in mind that we write you today to express our concerns with the recent health care reform legislation proposed by the leadership of both the U.S. House and Senate and the potentially devastating effects it will have on the economic health of our state. Unlike in Washington, Florida state leaders are constitutionally obligated to balance the budget. With our state's budget facing ongoing revenue shortfalls, the additional federal spending mandates contained in both the House and Senate's proposals will make it more difficult for Florida's families to realize economic stability and will jeopardize the job creation so important to our economic recovery.

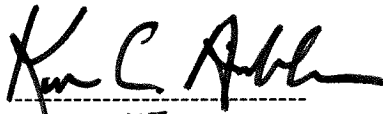
While the analysis of the Democratic U.S. House plan released last Thursday has not yet been finalized, the current plan proposed in the U.S. Senate for health care is estimated by Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to add an additional 1.4 million Florida residents to the state's Medicaid roll. Increasing enrollment by that magnitude will raise state Medicaid costs and force tax increases and spending cuts.

In fact, under the first five years of the U.S. Senate's plan, AHCA estimates \$3.96 billion in additional costs to Florida taxpayers. By 2019 the same estimates show state taxpayers' annual costs at nearly \$820 million and growing each year thereafter. While the unfunded costs in the Senate's plan are unmanageable, the proposal being considered in the U.S. House will be even more devastating.

With Florida already facing budget shortfalls of potentially \$2.3 to 5.5 billion over the next two years, it would be fiscally irresponsible to add hundreds of millions of dollars more in unfunded costs onto the backs of the Florida taxpayers. Increasing Medicaid at this rate is unsustainable. Such a move would harm any attempts to grow Florida's economy and create the jobs that Florida's workers need.

As members of the House Republican Conference, we urge you to consider these impacts and oppose the Medicaid spending mandates contained in health proposals currently before the Congress and work for common sense health care reforms that offer better approaches for all Floridians.

Sincerely,



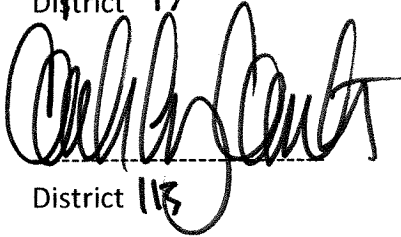
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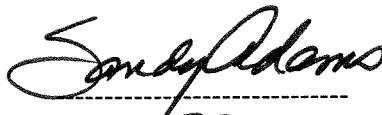
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District



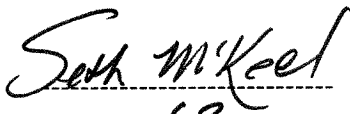
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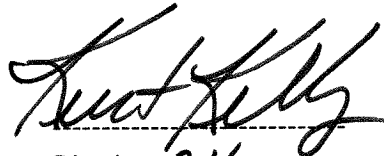
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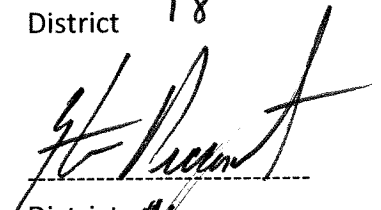
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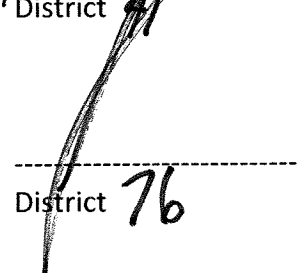
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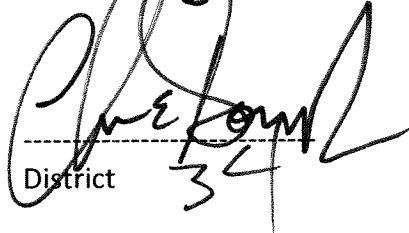
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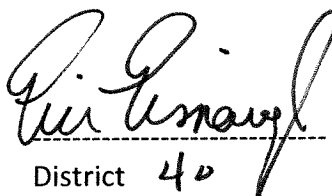
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District 76



District 34



District 40



District

William

District 68

Joseph C. Cull

District 13

Tom Anderson

District #45

Carl J. Down

District 83

Ronald Reagan

District 67

Dennis Grimsley

District 77

Baker

District 66

William

District 111

Alf #2

District

Frank

District 119

John W. Burt

District 91

Rail Blower

District 62

Charles

District 23

Jimmy

District 10

Arthur

District 114

Ann Plakon

District 37

M. Marlene O'Leary

District 42

Alan Hays

District 25

Bill

District 44

Wm. Lynch

District #82

John

District 74

Frank

District 19

Joseph

District 43

Byron Nelson

District 38

William

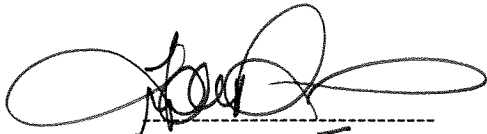
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Joseph

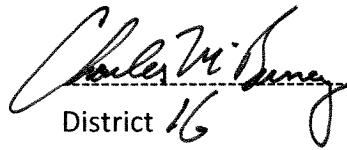
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William L. Proctor

District #20



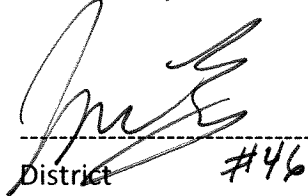
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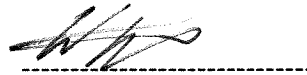
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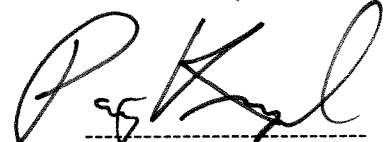
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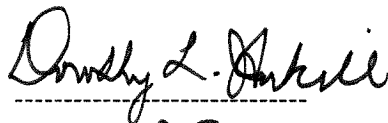
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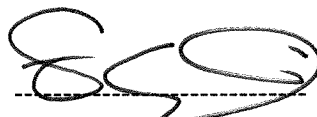
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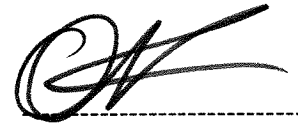
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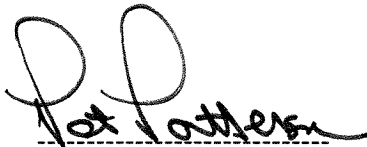
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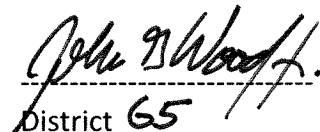
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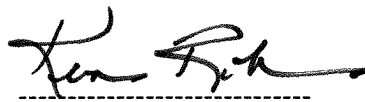
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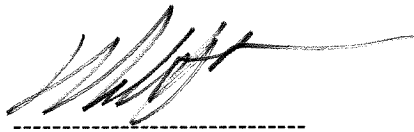
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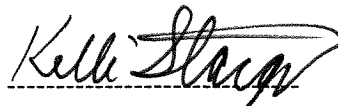
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District 71



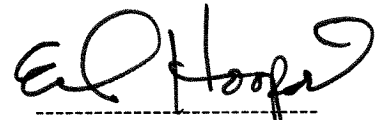
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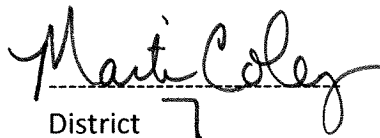
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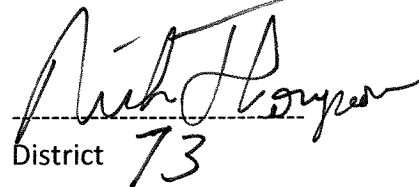
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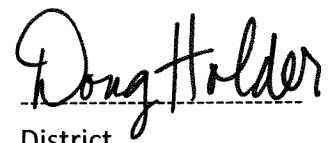
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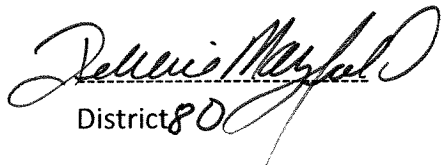
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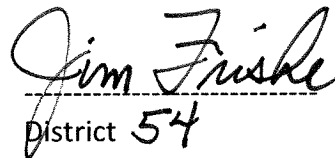
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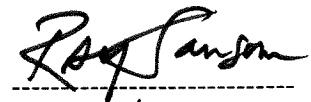
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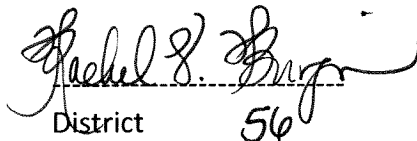
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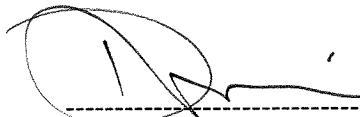
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District 4



District 56



District 30



District 117

John S. Ryan

District 12

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District 115

Eddy Bongaly

District 102

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District 110