



Florida House of Representatives

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Response by House Majority Leader Carlos Lopez-Cantera to Irresponsible Political Tactics by House Dems

Tallahassee, Fla. - Today in response to a letter sent by several Democratic members urging officials with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to deny Florida's request to move its Medicaid program into a managed care model, Florida House Majority Leader Carlos Lopez-Cantera (R-Miami) made the following statement:

"I find the actions of the leaders of the Democratic Caucus reckless and irresponsible. The Florida Legislature just faced one of the toughest financial legislative sessions over the past decade. That these leaders would recommend to the federal government that Florida should continue with an outrageously expensive, fraud-laden Medicaid system, almost certain to throw our state into a financial abyss, is indefensible and a political tactic that will only jeopardize Florida's financial stability and future.

"The policy solutions and fiscal restraint championed by the Republican Leadership, including our Medicaid reform package, are moving Florida in the right direction. Our actions have real results, evident in Florida's recent financial outlook upgrade by Standard & Poor's Rating Services, specifically mentioning 'addressing its structural imbalance through significant cost-cutting measures' as a reason for Florida's upgrade. Our tough choices are protecting Florida's future.

"Florida's new Medicaid system will ensure costs are controlled while delivering better and more stable services to Floridians who depend on Medicaid for their health care needs. Democrats continue to attack our tough and responsible choices without offering solutions to this and other difficulties the state is facing. As we move towards the next Legislative Session, our party will continue to extend an open invitation to the members of the Democratic caucus to help provide meaningful solutions for our state's issues."

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