



## STATE OF FLORIDA

**BILL McCOLLUM**  
**ATTORNEY GENERAL**

June 4, 2010

The Honorable Charlie Crist  
PL 01, The Capitol  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Crist:

I am writing to urge you to sign HB 1143. While this legislation makes many changes to the health care statutes, I would like to express my support for three specific provisions.

First, the bill provides that government cannot compel Floridians to buy health insurance except in certain situations, such as a condition of employment or enrollment in a state university. The bill also extends my office's ability to sue and advocate on behalf of individuals who will be forced to pay a tax or fine for choosing not to purchase health insurance.

Second, the bill prohibits taxpayer-funded abortions. The bill specifically prohibits health insurance purchased through an exchange with any state or federal funds, from providing coverage for an abortion unless it is performed to save the life or health of the mother or in cases of rape or incest. The bill does not prohibit coverage for abortion if the coverage is not purchased with taxpayer dollars. For the past 34 years, our country has had the policy of no taxpayer dollars funding abortions. This bill keeps that protection in place by ensuring that no state dollars are used for this purpose.

Finally, the bill provides women with the choice of receiving the most information possible prior to having an abortion. A majority of abortion clinics in Florida already perform an ultrasound in the first trimester to determine the stage of pregnancy. This provision standardizes that common practice. It is important to note that viewing the ultrasound is optional for women. Nothing in the legislation requires women to view the ultrasound. They can simply decline to view the ultrasound and sign a form. Ensuring that patients are fully informed prior to making a critical health care decision should be a policy we all support.

I ask that you thoroughly examine these positive provisions of the bill, and I strongly recommend that you sign it into law.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bill McCollum", written over a horizontal line.

Bill McCollum