



**RICK SCOTT**  
GOVERNOR

May 26, 2011

**FILED**  
2011 MAY 26 PM 1:23  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Secretary Kurt S. Browning  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
R.A. Gray Building  
500 S. Bronough Street  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Secretary Browning:

By the authority vested in me as the Governor of Florida, and under the provisions of Article III, Section 8, of the Constitution of Florida, I do hereby withhold my approval of and transmit to you my objections to, Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill 5305, enacted during the 113<sup>th</sup> Session of the Legislature of Florida, since statehood in 1845, during the Regular Session of 2011 and entitled:

An act relating to Correctional Medical Authority....

The Correctional Medical Authority was established in 1986 by the Florida Legislature during the *Costello v. Dugger* lawsuit originally filed in 1972 which alleged that prison overcrowding and inadequate physical and mental health care deprived inmates in Florida of constitutional rights. As a result of the lawsuit special monitors were appointed by a federal court to maintain control of prison health monitoring from 1972 to 1986. Federal judicial oversight was ultimately relinquished in 1993, in large part because of the creation of the Correctional Medical Authority, and its success in monitoring and ensuring adequate medical and health care for prison inmates.

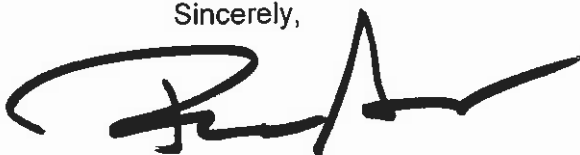
The Authority is an independent state agency currently housed in the Department of Health for administrative purposes only. Composed of six employees and a nine member Board of Directors, it is an autonomous state entity that provides monitoring and reporting of physical and mental health services in Florida's prisons. Using licensed physicians, nurses, and other medical personnel, the CMA conducts surveys intended to identify potential situations in the delivery and quality of prison health care and ensure prisoners are being treated in a manner meeting constitutional standards of care.

This bill removes the Correctional Medical Authority from current law. I believe this action is unwise because it removes a valuable layer of oversight of the state prison system and could cause public health and safety risks if appropriate health care is not provided to inmates in the state prison system. The continuing reporting of findings in CMA surveys indicates continued oversight of the prison health care is necessary.

Secretary Kurt S. Browning  
May 26, 2011  
Page Two

For this reason, I withhold my approval of House Bill 5305, and do hereby veto the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Scott". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "R" and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rick Scott  
Governor