



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

October 8, 2009

Mr. John Gwynne Prosser II
Vice President/Partner
Development, Acquisitions & Public Relations
4162 Wincrest Lane
Oakland Township, MI 48306

Dear Mr. Prosser:

Thank you for your letter of September 15, 2009 outlining your proposal to provide lifetime care to catastrophically injured citizens as a result of automobile accidents. Governor Crist has forwarded your letter to me to respond on his behalf.

As the Bureau Chief for the Florida Department of Health, Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Program, we are aware of the consequences of sustaining a catastrophic injury and recognize the gaps in our healthcare system to provide for the acute, inpatient/out patient rehabilitation and the long-term care for many of these individuals, particularly those who are uninsured or underinsured. We realize that the proposed changes to healthcare currently being considered at the national level do not begin to address the complex and costly issues related to catastrophic injuries that require comprehensive acute care, rehabilitation and long-term community-based services and supports.

The state of Florida is committed to exploring all viable programs to help our citizens obtain the appropriate health care and long-term services and supports needed to safely reintegrate back into the community. Your presentation to the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Advisory Council in November 2008 stimulated great interest and encouraged council members and attendees to believe that alternative funding solutions are possible. I concur with your assessment following your meeting with representatives from the Florida Workers Compensation Conference and the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Advisory Council members and attendees, that many healthcare providers, claims adjusters and individuals and family members would desire to see a creative solution similar to that developed in Michigan be implemented in the state of Florida.

As a result of your visit and presentation to the Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Advisory Council, they have created a task force that is charged with the responsibility of evaluating the concept of the model developed in Michigan and how applicable it or components of it would be applicable to the state of Florida. The task force contains a diverse group of individuals representing state agencies, healthcare consultants, providers and consumers. Members of the task force will be contacting you and other state representatives involved with the program to obtain additional information about the Michigan program.

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On behalf of Governor Crist and the state of Florida, we appreciate you bringing this information to our attention and your willingness to provide technical assistance and consultation about the Michigan program as we explore alternatives to best address the unmet long-term care needs of this population in Florida.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thom DeLilla". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "D".

Thom DeLilla
Bureau Chief
Brain & Spinal Cord Injury Program