

May 26, 2006

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. Speaker:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have vetoed House Bill 897 - *Health Insurance - Contracts of Carriers with Providers, Ambulatory Surgical Facilities, or Hospitals - Prohibited Provisions*.

This bill prohibits carriers from including in contracts with providers, ambulatory surgical facilities, or hospitals specified terms or conditions relating to reimbursement rates and reimbursement arrangements; and makes a violation of the Act an unfair and deceptive practice for purposes of insurance.

Senate Bill 1086, which was passed by the General Assembly and allowed to go into effect without my signature, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign House Bill 897.

Very truly yours,

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor