

May 17, 2007

The Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.

President of the Senate
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with Article II, Section 17 of the Maryland Constitution, today I have vetoed Senate Bill 714 - *Health Insurance - Prohibited Discrimination and Rebates - Incentives for Participation in Wellness Programs and Other Exceptions*.

This bill provides that it is not discrimination or a rebate for a health insurer, nonprofit health service plan, HMO, or dental plan organization (carrier) to provide reasonable incentives to an individual who is an insured, subscriber, or member for participation in a bona fide wellness program offered by the carrier. The bill imposes certain restrictions on a carrier's provision of incentives, including the prohibition that participation in the wellness program be a condition of coverage.

House Bill 157, which was passed by the General Assembly and signed by me, accomplishes the same purpose. Therefore, it is not necessary for me to sign Senate Bill 714.

Sincerely,

Martin O'Malley
Governor