

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 647 - *Health Services Cost Review Commission - Report on Hospital Charges*.

This bill requires the Health Services Cost Review Commission, in consultation with the Maryland Health Care Commission, to publish each acute care hospital's severity-adjusted average charge per case for the 15 most common inpatient diagnosis-related groups.

Senate Bill 380, 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 647.

Very truly yours,

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.
Governor