

May 26, 2006

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 686 - *Health Insurance - Carrier Provider Panels - Participation by Providers*.

This bill requires a health insurance carrier that uses a provider panel to maintain standards in accordance with specified regulations if the carrier is an insurer, nonprofit health service plan, or dental plan organization; requires a health insurance carrier that uses a provider panel to establish procedures to verify with each provider on the carrier's provider panel at specified times whether the provider is accepting new patients; and updates specified information on participating providers.

House Bill 1003, 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 Senate Bill 686.

Very truly yours,

Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr.  
Governor