

FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

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April 18, 2017

The Honorable Anitere Flores
Chairperson, Appropriations Subcommittee
on Health and Human Services
404 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Re: Opposition to Nursing Home PPS; Recommend Resident-Centered PPS

Dear Senator Flores:

The Archdiocese of Miami's Catholic Health Services cared for more than 3,500 patients and residents last year in its four skilled nursing and long term care facilities in Broward and Miami-Dade counties, continuing a 40 year history of providing quality, compassionate care to all faiths.

The proposed Nursing Home Prospective Payment System (PPS) recently included in the Senate's 2018 budget, which originated with the Navigant study and was subsequently modified by Florida Health Care Association is not a "true" Prospective Payment System. This legislation will potentially compromise our high quality nursing homes while providing a windfall to lower performing nursing homes. The proposed PPS system continues to utilize cost-based methodologies without taking into consideration the needs of the nursing home residents.

We recommend that the Legislature instruct AHCA to conduct a study which **focuses on the residents' needs**, and develop a "**Resident-Centered Prospective Payment System (RCPPS)**" which takes into account, but is not limited to, the resident's medical condition, functional status (ADL's), cognitive status, and behavioral issues, thus creating a "Resident Classification System" allowing for appropriate allocation of resources similar to a DRG system for hospitals. In addition, the RCPPS payment model will financially incentivize payments for meeting certain pre-determined quality performance measures.

I strongly urge you to reconsider your position on this issue and delay any action until a Resident-Centered Prospective Payment System can be created by AHCA.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Wenski', is written over a horizontal line.

Most Reverend Thomas Wenski
Archbishop of Miami

cc: Joe Catania, CEO, Catholic Health Services
Michael Sheedy