



GOVERNOR OF MISSOURI

JEFFERSON CITY

65102

JEREMIAH W. (JAY) NIXON  
GOVERNOR

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July 10, 2014

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI

Herewith I return to you Conference Committee Substitute No. 2 for House Committee Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 716 entitled:

AN ACT

To repeal sections 174.335, 195.070, 334.035, 334.735, 338.010, 376.1363, and 630.167, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof sixteen new sections relating to public health.

I am today returning Conference Committee Substitute No. 2 for House Committee Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 716 with my approval. This bill has provisions that will advance public health in Missouri, and I support those provisions. However, it also contains provisions that are cause for concern.

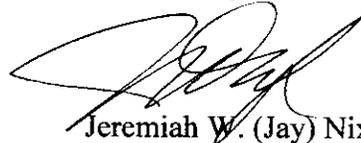
The concerning provisions in Conference Committee Substitute No. 2 for House Committee Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 716 would create a new medical license for "assistant physicians." Under the bill, graduates of medical school who have not completed a residency or received a license to practice medicine could nevertheless obtain a license as an "assistant physician," which would allow them to engage in the limited practice of medicine in underserved areas. The bill would require such individuals to have a collaborative arrangement with a licensed physician, who is to supervise and perform chart review of the assistant physician's work. Additionally, the bill would limit the type of care that assistant physicians can provide.

Because this new licensure for "assistant physicians" would circumvent well-established and long-standing physician licensing procedures, additional safeguards are necessary to ensure that individuals who have failed to complete residency or failed to obtain physician licensure for competency or other reasons are not allowed to practice as assistant physicians. Ensuring that all Missourians have access to adequate health care is a laudable goal, but it is equally important that such measures do not place citizens' health in jeopardy. Considering that this new category of licensure would make Missouri unique among states and would embark upon uncharted

waters in providing health care for Missourians, it is imperative that there be comprehensive and rigorous oversight and regulation of such “assistant physicians.”

In accordance with the above stated reasons for approval, I am returning Conference Committee Substitute No. 2 for House Committee Substitute for Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 716 with my approval.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Nixon", written over a horizontal line.

Jeremiah W. (Jay) Nixon  
Governor