



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANICE K. BREWER
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

April 28, 2011

The Honorable Ken Bennett
Secretary of State
1700 West Washington, 7th Floor
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

RE: Senate Bill 1593 (health insurance; interstate purchase)

Dear Secretary Bennett:

Today I vetoed Senate Bill 1593. I have long been a strong advocate for injecting more choice and competition into our health insurance market, and I applaud the sponsor's efforts toward that end. I share the Legislature's concerns about the impacts of mandates on the affordability of health insurance -- for these reasons I have joined in litigation with many of my fellow Governors to stop the federal government's intrusion into private health insurance. Arizona, not the federal government or legislatures in other states, should determine what coverage requirements are right for Arizonans.

Over the years, the Legislature has carefully weighed the priorities of Arizonans when determining what should be included in a standard health benefits package. The same level of public scrutiny should be applied whenever the Legislature attempts to remove a mandate. Senate Bill 1593 includes a provision that would, under certain conditions, change Arizona's benefit requirements based on legislative decisions in other states. This change was added on the floor and not subject to the typical public input that such major policy decisions should receive.

I am also concerned about risks to our citizens who may be subject to other states' regulatory procedures that could leave them with little recourse in the event of mistreatment. Senate Bill 1593 limits the jurisdiction of the Arizona Department of Insurance over out-of-state companies, potentially putting Arizona policyholders at risk. Arizonans should not have to litigate against an insurer when the State has an existing process by which insurance disputes can be resolved.

I continue to support a vigorous and competitive private health insurance market and look forward to working with the legislature on reforms to that end.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janice K. Brewer".

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

cc: The Honorable Russell Pearce
The Honorable Andy Tobin
The Honorable Nancy Barto
Senate Secretary
Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives