

July 8, 2003

The Honorable Alfred W. Speer
Clerk of the House of Representatives
State Capitol
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Re: House Bill No. 957 by Representative Yvonne Welch
HEALTH CARE: Provides relative to prescriptive drugs for the treatment of HIV/AIDS

Dear Mr. Speer:

House Bill No. 957 and Senate Bill No. 388 were both passed providing relative to authorized prescription drugs for the treatment of HIV/AIDS. While both bills have the same intent, there are differences in language that are in some degree of conflict, and so could lead to difficulty and confusion in implementation, should both bills become effective.

Because Senate Bill No. 388 exempts drugs related to HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, and Schizophrenia by specific therapeutic class, it is more compatible with the Department of Health and Hospitals' preferred drug list and prior authorization process, which are also organized by therapeutic class. After consultation with the two authors and the department, it is apparent that the Senate bill maintains the spirit of the House bill and has the capacity to be more efficiently administered by the department.

For these reasons, I have vetoed HB 957 and am returning it to the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

M.J. "Mike" Foster, Jr.

jw