

May 26, 2006

Dr. Rick May
President, Colorado Medical Society
7351 Lowry Blvd. Suite 110
Denver, Co 80230

Dear Dr. May,

I followed the movement of Senate Bill 198 through the legislative process with great interest. With Gov. Owens' veto today, I wanted to let you know that as a candidate for governor I understand the importance of trying to reform our broken health-care system.

It's clear to me that greater transparency in many areas of health care will only serve to improve the efficiency of the system, aid doctors and consumers in their decision-making processes, and ultimately bring skyrocketing costs under control for doctors and their patients. Among the biggest problems with our system today are its overall complexity, instability and lack of clarity over reimbursements.

As you know, SB 198 had the broad support of a bipartisan coalition of lawmakers, as well as medical providers and consumers. While I was not privy to all of the conversations during the session concerning SB 198, and I cannot comment on the Governor's stated reasons for vetoing the bill, I do support in concept the intent underlying SB 198. The bill should have been signed by the Governor, in that it was the best solution crafted by the Legislature to solve a complicated issue. If I am fortunate to be elected Governor, I will work with the Legislature to craft a workable bill that achieves the ends intended by SB 198.

In all areas, and especially in health care, my goal is to bring all stakeholders to the table to forge agreements that benefit the people of Colorado. Insurance companies must be at the table, and they must be willing to make meaningful contributions towards helping to reduce costs, increase efficiency and simplify our overly complex health care system. I look forward to working with you in the future to bring high-quality, affordable health care and health insurance to every Coloradan.

Sincerely,

Bill Ritter, Jr.