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May 25, 2001

Current News

The Honorable Steve Sviggum
Speaker of the House of Representatives
463 State Office Building

Policy

Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

For Citizens

Dear Speaker Sviggum:

Press Office

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 189, House File Number 1051, a bill relating to medical malpractice claims.

The Administration

Lt. Governor

First Lady

The original premise of the bill was to clarify language pertaining to the certification of expert witnesses in medical malpractice cases. The bill was significantly altered on the Senate floor on May 16, 2001 with an amendment that was portrayed as non-controversial. In fact the amendment is very controversial and has significant ramifications within the medical, legal and insurance industries.

This bill as it was adopted, now has the effect of retroactively changing existing law related to the medical malpractice statute of limitations. Such a change has significant policy and financial ramifications for the medical profession and is not a change to be made without serious debate and unambiguous intent.

Sincerely,

Jesse Ventura Governor

cc: Senator Don Samuelson, President of the Senate Senator Roger Moe, Majority Leader Senator Dick Day, Minority Leader Representative Tom Pugh, Minority Leader Chief Senate Author Chief House Author Mr. Patrick E. Flahaven, Secretary of the Senate Mr. Edward A. Burdick, Chief Clerk of the House Ms. Mary Kiffmeyer, Secretary of State



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