



The Florida House of Representatives

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Redistricting 2012: The Florida Legislature Thanks Southeast Florida Residents for Sharing Their Stories and Submitting New Maps

Tallahassee, Fla. – The Florida House and Senate wrapped up the Southeast Florida leg of the public redistricting meetings last evening in Key West with lawmakers thanking the residents of Southeast Florida for sharing the stories of their communities and providing lawmakers with critical input in advance of the 2012 redistricting process. Members of the Legislature also noted their appreciation of a very civil and open dialogue regarding how redistricting should affect Florida's diverse communities.

The Key West meeting was the 20th in a statewide tour. Other hearing locations included Stuart on Monday, August 15, Boca Raton and Davie on Tuesday, August 16, Miami and South Miami on Wednesday, August 17, and concluded with the meeting in Key West on Thursday, August 18. Multiple speakers presented proposed news maps, while others utilized House and Senate redistricting software to draw maps at the display tables outside of the meeting rooms. In total, the Legislature has received more than 30 partial and complete maps.

“We want to thank the residents of Southeast Florida who came to one of the public redistricting meetings and helped lawmakers better understand their unique and diverse communities,” said Senator Don Gaetz (R-Destin), Chair of the Senate Committee on Reapportionment. “Public input is paramount to this historic, once-in-a-decade process and we could not redraw district boundary lines without first traveling to each region of our state and hearing from Floridians about their communities.”

Legislators are traveling the state this summer to gather public input on redistricting prior to beginning the work of drawing new state House, state Senate and congressional district boundaries. The Florida constitution mandates that the Legislature vote on new maps during the 2012 Legislative Session, which the Legislature moved to the months of January and February to better accommodate the redistricting timeline.

“With 20 public meetings now complete, the Florida Legislature has collected a tremendous amount of valuable input from Floridians in nearly all regions of our state, and we look forward to visiting Southwest Florida next on the last leg of our 26-city statewide tour,” said Representative Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel), Chair of the House Redistricting Committee. “We encourage residents to stay engaged throughout the 2012 redistricting process. We want to continue to hear from you and collect your feedback and comments on maps that are submitted by our fellow Floridians, as well as maps that are proposed by the Legislature.”

The next round of public redistricting meetings will take place Monday, August 29, to Thursday, September 1, and will include stops in Tampa, Largo, Sarasota, Naples, Lehigh Acres and Clewiston.

For a complete listing of the public meetings taking place across the State of Florida or to find more information on the Redistricting process and how you can get involved, please visit www.floridaredistricting.org or www.flsenate.gov/redistricting. Meeting video, podcast and transcript archives from this past week’s meetings will be available at the same websites.

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Managed care for Medicaid raises concerns in Florida

WTSP-TV CBS Tampa

July 18, 2011

By: Dave Heller

Tallahassee, Florida - Florida is moving ahead with plans to place the state's 3 million Medicaid recipients into managed care programs and that's raising concerns among pharmacies in Florida.

A group called Pharmacy Choice and Access Now, or PCAN, is concerned the new managed-care system will prevent Medicaid patients from having their prescriptions filled at the pharmacy of their choice.

Pharmacy owners are calling on the state not to require mandatory mail ordering for prescriptions. Plus, they want Medicaid patients to have the option to fill 90-day prescriptions with their own neighborhood pharmacy.

Bill Mincy, a member of Pharmacy Choice and Access Now, says mandatory prescription mail ordering would hurt patients, as well as local pharmacy businesses.

"We in the local pharmacies across Florida will lose business to out-of-state mail order pharmacies, creating layoffs and possibly even pharmacy closures."

Michael Jackson of the Florida Pharmacy Association wants the state to make timely payments to providers and make sure patients can keep their business with the pharmacists they trust.

"We think it makes very good sense for Medicaid patients and state employees to maintain the choice of having their prescriptions filled by their personal pharmacist. Policies or a lack of policies or guidelines that create mandatory mail order programs make no sense for patients or for the many Florida pharmacies that they rely on for their care."

But one of the main lawmakers to shape the managed-care Medicaid plan says patients do not have to worry about any mail-order mandates.

Rep. Robert Schenck says the new law reforming Medicaid prohibits the exclusive use of mail-order pharmacies for patients.

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