



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Statement by Michael Carlson, Executive Director of the Personal Insurance Federation of Florida (PIFF) Regarding HB 119 by Representative Jim Boyd (R-Bradenton)

(Tallahassee, FL)-- “The Personal Insurance Federation of Florida (PIFF) supports reform of the Personal Injury Protection (PIP) law, to increase the value of the premium dollars paid by Florida consumers, to arrest the rate increases that are occurring, and to restore health to the auto insurance market. We believe that if a comprehensive bill is enacted into law, consumers will see benefits, including rate reductions, as a natural effect of healthy market competition.

“The proposal brought forth by Representative Boyd and the House Insurance and Banking Subcommittee today focuses on the source of PIP costs: the largely unregulated PIP clinic system and the trial lawyers who support it. It will limit PIP benefits to hospital emergency room services, to focus on the truly injured. It will include tough fraud-fighting components to allow companies to root out fraud. It will add fairness to the litigation process by reasonably limiting attorney’s fees. And it will provide clarity with the application of the existing PIP fee schedule which is intended to rein in medical costs.

“This bold solution, which is not the product of any special interest group but rather an approach directed by the Subcommittee itself, will bring about meaningful changes to benefit Florida insurance consumers. Such action could not come at a better time for Floridians who simply cannot afford to continue to foot the bill for auto insurance fraud.

“As Governor Scott and Chief Financial Officer Atwater have clearly stated, it is time to take action to rein in the burdensome costs to Florida consumers. The bill sponsored by Rep. Boyd is a significant first step to achieve such relief.”

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The Personal Insurance Federation of Florida is a personal lines insurance trade association whose charter members (Allstate and Castle Key Insurance Companies, The Progressive Group of Insurance Companies, and State Farm Insurance Companies), represent forty five percent (45%) of the automobile insurance market and more than twenty five percent (25%) of the homeowners’ insurance market. The trade’s goals are to create a dynamic, efficient, and competitive marketplace for personal insurance products for the benefit of all Floridians.