



HB 7113

Trauma Center Grandfathering & Allows for Automatic Licensure for 12 Trauma Centers

Responses to HCA Handout:

- *Provides that ALL currently operating trauma centers are a needed part of an integrated system:*

Response: The bill does not say that – is says any trauma center in operation for a consecutive 12-month period (since 2004) that submits (not has approved) an application to the American College of Surgeons on or before June 30, 2015. The bill as drafted INCLUDES **Orange Park**, which DOH shut down because it did not meet quality standards.

- *Grandfathers trauma centers approved by DOH*

Response: Courts have repeatedly found that DOH was working under an invalid rule based on 1990 state demographics and 10-year old needs assessment that DOH was to have updated annually and had failed to do. The rate of trauma per population is actually going down in the state due to preventive measures such as using seatbelts, wearing helmets, safer cars

- *The existing trauma centers are under threat of closure.*

Response: There is conflicting data as to the impact on the community other than the fact they have increased the cost of trauma care – both in duplicative operational costs AND they flat out charge more and bill insurance companies more.

- *Shutting down trauma centers will hurt Florida's emergency health care system*

Response: 92% of Florida has access to trauma centers – even Florida's geography a better solution for the 8% is better ground and air EMS capabilities, because there would not be sufficient patient volume to maintain a trauma center. FYI: HCA is has NO plans for covering rural Florida.

- *Protecting these trauma centers not only saves lives, but protects 150 high paying jobs and capital investment*

Response: Those jobs and capital investments are unnecessarily raising the cost of health care in the state without the benefit of increasing overall outcomes.