



# State of South Carolina

## Office of the Governor

MARK SANFORD  
GOVERNOR

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April 2, 2008

The Honorable Robert W. Harrell, Jr.  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
Post Office Box 11867  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Dear Mr. Speaker and Members of the House:

I am hereby vetoing and returning without my approval H. 3632, R-217, for the same reason I vetoed S. 910, R-356, in 2006. That veto was sustained and I have taken the liberty of including my reasoning at the time.

This bill mandates that a licensed nurse must clearly be identified by wearing an identification badge at least one inch by three inches in size bearing the nurse's name and title.

Although this bill is well intentioned, I am vetoing H. 3632 because I still believe government should resist the urge to place mandates on private business unless there are compelling reasons to do so.

Government mandates on the private sector have a cost, and I believe only in the event of a compelling societal need should we use the force of government to compel private action. In 2005, I reluctantly allowed a bill to go into law (Lewis Blackman Hospital Safety Act) which mandated ID tags for certain medical personnel in hospitals. I did so because the bill's proponents made a compelling case for patients and their families to be able to immediately identify the various medical personnel who converge on the patient during health emergencies in public hospitals.

In contrast, this bill requires more than 58,000 nurses statewide to wear an ID tag, even though many nurses operate in settings where an emergency situation is unlikely. Other nurses still work almost exclusively in private practices, and many people in these settings have long-standing relationships with their caregivers. In these places, the utility of a nametag is negligible, and government mandates are not appropriate.

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I still believe a wiser course is to leave this to the private sector. This type of mandate could be the standard of the South Carolina Medical Association or the South Carolina Nurses' Association to pass professional rules or guidelines for their members. However well intentioned, I do not feel it is Columbia's rightful place to usurp that role.

For these reasons, I am returning H. 3632 without my signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MS', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mark Sanford

cc: The Honorable Richard E. Chalk, Jr.