

# Bulletin Boards

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## Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida

**Category:** Insurance-Health

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Here's a familiar story. I just heard this on the local evening news and pulled it off the TV station's web site.

<http://www.wwsb.com/>

MEDICAL INSURANCE BLUE-CROSS DROPS LOCAL DOCTOR, PARENTS UPSET...

A group of Bradenton parents goes to battle against an insurance giant.

They're fighting because Blue-Cross Blue-Shield is dropping their pediatrician, Dr. Carlos Mendez. The insurance company has included him on its provider list for 16 years and given him excellent reviews. But in April, Blue-Cross notified him that he's being dumped, citing only business reasons. That affects more than 26-hundred children in the doctor's practice, and many parents are devastated.

The Florida Medical Association says Blue-Cross Blue-Shield is dumping a lot of doctors across the state, including 14 in Tampa and 24 in Jacksonville. The association is working to get legislation to stop this sort of thing.

Donna Flanagan, mother of patient says, "I'm very upset, I don't think that it is fair...It's heartbreaking to see that we may have to go find a new doctor."

Dr. Carlos Mendez, Pediatrician says, "It's real important that the parents have some say-so of who their doctors are going to be...Their doctor can't be just taken out from under them without any reason at all."

Patients are fighting back. They're waging a letter writing campaign and staging demonstrations. Meanwhile, Blue-Cross Blue-Shield told us the same thing it told Dr. Mendez. It made the decision for business reasons. They also say that they are constantly reevaluating providers to make sure their members are receiving good, affordable care.

For more information, call 748-5885.

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**Last changed: July 19, 2001**



# NEWS abc 40

## PAWNSHOP GUNS NO TIME LIMIT ON PAWNSHOP GUN DATABASE...

(Tallahassee-AP) -- Florida Attorney General Bob Butterworth says the state does not put a 48-hour limit on gun records in a state database of pawnshop transactions.

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