

# Governor Jim Gibbons



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## **GOVERNOR URGES U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO CAREFULLY EVALUATE PREVIOUS UNITED HEALTH GROUP MERGERS**

**Carson City**— In an effort to protect Nevada consumers and physicians from facing challenges similar to those experienced by Californians during the UnitedHealth and PacifiCare merger, Governor Gibbons calls upon the United States Department of Justice to carefully examine all aspects of the pending UnitedHealth and Sierra Health Services merger.

Following PacifiCare's takeover by UnitedHealth Group two years ago, the California Department of Insurance stated that it discovered nearly 133,000 violations of state law and regulations regarding healthcare payments as well as many improper claim denials.

**"Far too many Californians were negatively affected by the PacifiCare and UnitedHealth merger, costing both consumers and physicians millions of dollars out of their own pockets. These staggering figures are cause for concern, and I urge the Department of Justice to carefully examine the potential challenges that a merger between UnitedHealth and Sierra Health Care could create for Nevadans,"** said Governor Gibbons.

On November 9, 2007, Governor Gibbons sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Justice requesting that they seek a final and accurate determination, within their jurisdiction, of what this merger would mean to healthcare access and availability in Nevada.

**"A merger of this magnitude could prove to be less than advantageous to Nevada consumers due to the overwhelming HMO and Medicare market share the UnitedHealth Group will control in our state,"** Governor Gibbons concluded.

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**Melissa Subbotin, Press Secretary**

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