

## PRESS RELEASE

### Minister of Health and Seniors Defers Bermuda Health Council Amendment Act 2016

**(Hamilton, Bermuda 13<sup>th</sup> July 2016)** –The Minister of Health and Seniors has opted to clarify several detailed and specific aspects of the proposed Bermuda Health Council Amendment Act 2016 before it returns to the House of Assembly after the summer break.

The proposed Act enables the Health Council to grant permission to health service providers to make financially-vested referrals (referrals by a health care provider to another of his or her businesses), to license health service providers, and to grant permission for entry of high-risk medical technology.

The Health Council will take the opportunity to gather additional feedback from various stakeholders before proceeding. A working committee of physicians has been formed to assist with the process, which includes representatives of the Bermuda Medical Doctors Association. Other providers and the public are also expected to be involved in this process.

**CEO, Tawanna Wedderburn said:** “Given the importance of this legislation to the delivery of health care and patient safety, the Health Council has undertaken to further consult with key stakeholders. We thank the public, including local providers, for their feedback during the consultation process and after the House debate, and look forward to continuing our mission to regulate, coordinate, and enhance the delivery of health services in Bermuda”.

**The Minister of Health and Seniors, the Hon. Jeanne Atherden, CA, CPA, JP, MP said:** “I support keeping this Bill in abeyance to allow further consultation given additional interest expressed by key stakeholders. We encourage all to participate in discussions to ensure mutual understanding and the best outcome possible”.

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#### About Bermuda Health Council

Established in January 2006, the Bermuda Health Council (Health Council) is tasked with regulating, coordinating and enhancing the provision of health services in Bermuda. Led by a Board representing a broad range of sectors in Bermuda's community, and staffed by a team of committed professionals, the Health Council works with health system stakeholders towards achieving a quality, equitable and sustainable health system.