Leon County Commissioner Bill Proctor said he'll call for patients to stop going to the county health department for medical services if the Florida Department of Health and the Florida State College of Medicine fail to rescind their employment contract with incoming Leon County health administrator Claudia Blackburn.

At a news conference Tuesday, Proctor lambasted Blackburn and her hiring by DOH and the College of Medicine without public vetting. Pointing to her work as a county health administrator in Amarillo, Texas, and a paper she co-authored in 1998 about privatization of medical services for the poor, Proctor called Blackburn a "Dick Cheney-styled" public policy disciple bent on marginalizing public health.

"We don't want Texas in Tallahassee," he said. "I do not want our health department to be privatized."

At the news conference, Proctor presented a letter he sent today to FSU Interim President Garnett Stokes and Florida Surgeon General Dr. John Armstrong calling for Blackburn's contract to be revoked. In the letter, Proctor decried what he called a "draconian relationship" between FSU and DOH and a "sneaky" take over the county health department by FSU.

"This arrangement that FSU has with DOH portends of a secret government plan akin to the Tuskegee syphilis experiment against poor victims," Proctor wrote. "The lack of sunlight on this negotiated pact between FSU and DOH and Claudia Blackburn appears to be a concoction of arrogance, disrespect and selfishness that will lead to a health care Armageddon for recipients of public health care from the Leon County Health Department."

FSU and DOH officials have said their partnership helps to attract top-notch national candidates. Under the employee exchange agreement, Blackburn will be an FSU faculty member assigned to and supervised by DOH. DOH will pay all but 11 percent of her $122,000 annual salary. The remainder will be paid by FSU out of grant and contract money.

The arrangement between DOH and FSU is similar to one between DOH and the University of South Florida to hire the health department administrator for Hillsborough and Polk counties.

The County Commission ratified Blackburn's selection April 8, after it was placed on the commission agenda at the last minute as an add-on item.

In a Democrat article published Sunday, FSU College of Medicine's Dr. Les Beitsch defended the agreement and Blackburn's selection.

"It's not a Florida State University takeover of the health department," Beitsch said. "I have never been hounded so relentlessly for having a purer motive. There is no personal gain for any of us, the only intent is to serve the community."