STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1900 KANAWHA BOULEVARD, EAST
CHARLESTON, WV 25305
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EARL RAY TOMBLIN
GOVERNOR

April 1, 2016

VIA HAND DELIVERY

The Honorable Natalie E. Tennant
Secretary of State
State of West Virginia
Building 1, Suite 157-K
State Capitol
Charleston, WV 25305

Re: Enrolled House Bill 2796

Dear Secretary of State Tennant:

Pursuant to the provisions of section fourteen, article VII of the Constitution of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove House Bill 2796. This bill provides that any state employee who is designated an essential member of an emergency aid provider may be granted leave from his or her state employment with pay, for not more than fifteen work days in each year, to provide disaster relief or emergency services in areas of the state in which a state of emergency has been declared. The aim of this bill is laudable. However, I am concerned about agencies using the Civil Contingent Fund to pay for up to $300,000 a year in paid leave without the governor's prior approval. Because this bill sidesteps executive oversight of governor's office funds and could lead to abuse, it is hereby vetoed.

Sincerely,

Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

cc: The Hon. Tim Armstead
Speaker of the House of Delegates

The Hon. William P. Cole III
President of the Senate