STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
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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 Committee Substitute for House Bill 4014

Dear Secretary of State Tennant:

Pursuant to the provisions of section fourteen, article VII of the Constitution of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove the Enrolled Committee Substitute for House Bill 4014. This bill makes numerous revisions to the section of the West Virginia Code governing public education assessment programs and accountability measures. In particular, the bill requires the State Board of Education to discontinue the use of the state's current summative assessment test in a very limited timeframe. This provision is problematic for two key reasons:

1) It discounts the time and consideration that will be needed to evaluate and establish a new statewide summative assessment test.

2) The uncertainty that will be caused by the assessment mandates has me concerned about the potential disruption of our state's ongoing implementation of the new A-F school accountability system.

As governor, I have championed and the Legislature has endorsed education reform measures that will improve student achievement. We need to give these changes and measures added time to take hold, and see what works and what does not. While revisions may be warranted as we move along, we need to be cautious not to undermine stability for our teachers or the children they are trying to educate. Because this bill occasions yet more uncertainty and instability in our system of public education, 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