STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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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 Senate Bill 658

Dear Secretary of State Tennant:

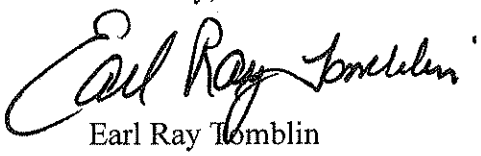
Pursuant to the provisions of section fourteen, article VII of the Constitution of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove Enrolled Senate Bill 658. This bill would allow licensed professionals, such as doctors, nurses, pharmacists and dentists, to donate time to the care of indigent and needy patients in a clinical setting. The bill also requires licensing boards to accept donated time to meet continuing education requirements for these professions.

Donating time to the care of the indigent and needy is critical to the framework of our society. That is why professionals are already authorized, encouraged, and in some instances mandated to donate their time and skills in this manner. Therefore, the "authorization" to donate contained in this bill is unnecessary.

That said, my concern with this bill is its requirement that donated time to be used to complete continuing education requirements. Each licensing board has specific continuing education requirements tailored to their profession. These requirements ensure that the state's licensed healthcare professionals are informed about changes in their profession and are educated to provide the best care to their patients. Further, some licensing boards already offer professionals continuing education credit for donated time. Therefore, the continuing education provision in this bill providing one-to-one credit, up to ten hours, would decrease the critical training received by our healthcare professionals through their continuing education courses.

In view of the foregoing, I must disapprove Enrolled Senate Bill 658.

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