Dear [Senator/Delegate] [Last Name],

I am writing to express my strong support for maintaining West Virginia's Certificate of Need (CON) program. As the Mayor of [City], I have witnessed firsthand how this program helps ensure our residents have access to high-quality, sustainable healthcare services while preventing unnecessary duplication of medical facilities that could destabilize our existing healthcare infrastructure.

In rural communities like ours, healthcare facilities operate on thin margins. The CON program helps protect these vital institutions by ensuring that new healthcare services are introduced based on genuine community need rather than market speculation. This is particularly crucial for our local hospital, which serves not only our city's [population number] residents but also those from surrounding communities.

The program has demonstrated several key benefits for our region:

First, it has helped maintain the financial viability of our existing healthcare facilities by preventing oversaturation of services. This stability has been essential for retaining healthcare professionals in our community and ensuring consistent access to care for our residents.

Second, the CON process has encouraged healthcare providers to collaborate rather than compete, leading to more efficient use of limited healthcare resources. This coordination has been particularly valuable in managing our community's response to public health challenges.

Third, the program has helped ensure that new healthcare services are distributed equitably throughout our region, preventing the concentration of facilities in more affluent areas while leaving other communities underserved.

I understand there are ongoing discussions about reforming or eliminating the CON program. While I support efforts to streamline the process and reduce unnecessary bureaucracy, I strongly believe that completely eliminating the program would have severe unintended consequences for communities like ours. Without these protections, we risk seeing our existing healthcare infrastructure weakened by uncontrolled expansion in more profitable markets.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you in person and to show you how the CON program has benefited our community. Please feel free to contact my office at [phone number] or [email] to arrange a meeting.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

[Mayor's Name] Mayor of [City] West Virginia