

The Honorable (member's name)
West Virginia Senate/House of Delegates
Room____, Building 1 State Capitol Complex
Charleston, WV 25305

Subject: Protect West Virginia's Certificate of Need Program

Dear [Senator Last Name or Delegate Last Name],

I am writing you as your constituent representing the largest employer in your district, employing more than (insert.the.number.of.employees.here)?to express my strong opposition to repealing West Virginia's Certificate of Need (CON) law. This crucial health care program ensures that our communities maintain high-quality health care close to home.

There's a lot of misinformation surrounding CON laws and its impact on health care in West Virginia.

There's a myth that eliminating CON in West Virginia will create a free market in health care. The fact is that, with or without CON, West Virginia's health care system is not a free market. Currently, 75% of hospital payments come from government payors that pay below the cost of care. Repealing CON will have consequences, such as an influx of out-of-state providers cherry picking commercially insured patients, while essential community health services become financially unsustainable. (Insert.any.local.impact.information.here);

Opening the door to those whose focus is on a discrete subset of patients and services undermines the ability of our West Virginia-based hospitals, including (insert.name.of.hospital.here), to provide a hometown system of care that serves everyone, not just a select few.

I urge you to strongly oppose any attempt to repeal West Virginia's Certificate of Need program. Any weakening of these regulations could have serious unintended consequences for health care access in our state, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I would appreciate hearing your position and the opportunity to discuss.

Sincerely,