



February 18, 2025

TO: WVHA Member Hospital CEOs, C-Suite, WVHA Legislative Committee, Public Relations/Marketing, Government Relations Teams, and Grassroots Network

Good morning – We are requesting your immediate support in protecting the state’s Certificate of Need (CON) program, which is currently facing repeal efforts that could significantly impact health care delivery in our communities. **The voice of all hospital employees matters in this crucial discussion so please engage your physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals to join you in our advocacy, and here’s how to help:**

1. Contact your legislator at the <https://www.wvlegislature.gov/>. If you have questions about the legislator in your district, please contact [me](#). If you have their cell number, this is the most efficient way to communicate with legislators, and contacting their Capitol Office is also effective.
2. Please refer to the [CON Resource Page](#) for key points to emphasize including the following:
 - CON programs help maintain healthcare quality while controlling costs
 - Without CON, some communities could lose access to essential services
 - The program ensures thoughtful, strategic healthcare development
 - CON helps preserve our ability to serve vulnerable populations
3. Share your personal experience about how CON has positively impacted your ability to serve patients.
4. Come to the State Capitol for face to face meetings with your legislators. If you need assistance in arranging, please contact [me](#).
5. Engage not only your hospital employees but also your community leaders and chambers of commerce. This step has proven especially effective with legislators. Here’s a [link](#) to a recent article published by Buckhannon Mayor Robbie Skinner in support of CON.
6. Sample Script for Legislator Contact: "Hello, I am [Your Name], a health care professional at [Hospital Name]. I'm calling/writing to express my strong support for maintaining our state's Certificate of Need program. This program is essential for ensuring quality health

care delivery and protecting access to care in our community. I urge you to oppose any legislation that would eliminate or weaken eliminate this vital program. I'd be happy to provide specific examples of how CON benefits our patients and community."

Time is of the essence since there are now **2 CON Repeal bills introduced in the Senate ([SB 453 pending in the Senate Health Committee](#)) and House (HB 2007 to be introduced today and pending in the House Health Committee)** – both by the Governor. We're hearing rumblings that that [House Health Committee](#) is likely to consider the legislation soon so contacting members of the House Health Committee immediately is a priority.

Please take action ASAP to help preserve this crucial program that protects both health care providers and the communities we serve. Thank you for your dedication to our patients and community. If you have any questions, please let [me](#) know. Thanks.

Tony