

# WVHA

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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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**January 29, 2025**

I wanted to share a few updates coming out of the State Capitol this week and bring you up to speed on the latest from President Trump's Executive Order on activities related to the distribution of federal financial assistance.

- **WV Senate and House Committee listings:** First, full WV Senate and House Committee announcements have been made so now we have a complete picture of which legislators are on committees. The Senate Health Committee will be chaired by [Laura Wakim Chapman](#) and the full membership is [here](#). The House Health Committee will be chaired by [Evan Worrel](#) with full membership [here](#). Please take a moment to review each committee membership and see if you have a local legislator on the committee. The full Senate Committee listing and membership is [here](#) and the House Committee listing is [here](#). Previously announced House subcommittees have not been officially released. If you have any questions, please contact [me](#).
- **WVHA Legislative Agenda:** The WVHA's 2025 Legislative Priorities publication is available [here](#). Please review and if you haven't already done so, please be sure to reach out to your local legislators to talk about the hospital challenges and opportunities you face in your community/region. Our Priorities publication is a good starting point.
- **CON Advocacy:** This week, you received several materials pertaining to our advocacy supporting the Certificate of Need program. These include [Myth vs. Fact on CON](#); and an [Opinion/Editorial](#) that we've asked hospital teams to review and consider using to communicate how eliminating the CON program will impact access to care and services in your community/region. We're also arranging other earned media and finalizing 30 second radio spots aligned with our advocacy goal to protect and maintain CON. Other on-going activities include continued legislator outreach and meetings. If you have any questions or need additional guidance, please contact [me](#).

- **State Budget (Medicaid and PEIA):** Yesterday, Governor Morrisey held another press conference with the primary focus being on the State Budget and the \$400 million deficit he described during a briefing in his first week in office. Medicaid and PEIA, among other structural budget challenges, were covered in his briefing. Re: Medicaid: the Governor cited a \$153 million shortfall in the state's share of the Medicaid budget. He reiterated that the shortfall is being funded by one-shot money but did not elaborate on the source of that funding. We've contacted WV Medicaid to learn more so please be on the look for any developments. Re: PEIA, the Governor noted a \$62 million shortfall to comport to the state's 80/20 law. SB 268 returned PEIA to an 80/20 employer-employee match for state employees beginning in July. We expect the provisions of SB 268, which also increased provider reimbursement to a minimum of 110% of Medicare's reimbursement, will be a major topic of discussion this session. Watch the Governor's full remarks [here](#).
- **President Trump Executive Order:** Finally, Melanie Dempsey our VP for Financial Policy has been keeping the CEOs and CFOs in the loop on President Trump's Executive Order on activities related to the distribution of federal financial assistance. Yesterday, we shared information about the Executive Order that resulted in a memo from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) directing a federal freeze on the distribution of federal financial assistance to many programs. Late Tuesday evening, a federal judge in the District of Columbia (DC) temporarily blocked the Trump administration's efforts to temporarily freeze these programs. This injunction came because of a lawsuit filed by a nonprofit organization, *Democratic Forward*. Federal Judge Loren AliKhan cited the freeze violated the First Amendment and the Administrative Procedure Act (governs the President's authority on rulemaking). Judge AliKhan paused the freeze until Monday, February 3, when she will hold a hearing to consider a permanent decision on the case. Several other lawsuits have now been filed in addition to this one. If your hospital experiences any concerns related to Medicaid or other programs, please reach out to [Melanie](#) immediately for discussion. We will share additional information as it becomes available.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact [me](#). Thanks.

Tony