



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
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CHARLESTON, WV 25305  
(304) 558-2000

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.

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Secretary Tennant  
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Earl Ray Tomblin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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