



*Jim Justice*  
*Governor of West Virginia*

March 14, 2024

**VIA HAND DELIVERY**

The Honorable Mac Warner  
Secretary of State  
State Capitol Complex  
Building 1, Suite 157-K  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Re: Enrolled House Bill 5014

Secretary Warner:

Pursuant to Section Fifty-One, Article VI of the Constitution of the State of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove and return Enrolled House Bill 5014. This bill appropriates two million dollars to “West Virginia University Health System for the Federal Food and Drug Administration Pilot Program” and four million dollars to “Hospital Grants and Research Programs.”

While I wholeheartedly support our hospitals and medical centers and the advancement of vital medical care for the citizens of West Virginia, these two appropriations direct the grant of large sums of money with little context or direction for the use of such funding. The language of the bill is ambiguous as to the Legislature’s intent and just what types of research may be funded from this appropriation, and no context or background has been provided to date to my Office regarding this appropriation. I believe it is imperative that we take a prudent approach and address important outstanding questions regarding the State’s budget for the next fiscal year before making discretionary supplementary appropriations such as this. The Legislature will need to convene prior to the end of the fiscal year to address budgetary matters, and this supplementary appropriation may be considered along with other priorities for funding at that time. Accordingly, I hereby disapprove and return Enrolled House Bill 5014.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Justice".

Jim Justice  
Governor

cc: The Honorable Craig Blair  
President of the Senate

The Honorable Roger Hanshaw  
Speaker of the House of Delegates