



Jim Justice
Governor of West Virginia

March 27, 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 Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 714

Secretary Warner:

Pursuant to Section Fourteen, Article VII of the Constitution of the State of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove and return Enrolled Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 714, which seeks to transfer the duties and functions of the Board of Osteopathic Medicine to the Board of Medicine and to expand the board's authority to regulate genetic counselors.

The West Virginia Board of Osteopathic Medicine ("WVBOM") has been in existence since 1923. In other words, the WVBOM has been operating in this state for over 100 years. During those 100 years, the WVBOM has provided the practice of osteopathic medicine with effective oversight at no additional cost to our citizens because of the WVBOM's self-sustaining financial model.

These are two separate and distinct categories of the medical profession and should be treated as such, in order to best uphold the values and principles of each. The Osteopathic community has been vocal in advising that the elimination of the West Virginia Board of Osteopathic Medicine would serve to disregard the unique benefits that osteopathic physicians provide to the citizens of our Great State, and could greatly impede underserved citizens from receiving prompt, high-quality osteopathic care. Having separate boards to regulate separate categories of the medical profession will continue to encourage diversity in practice, increase innovative approaches to care, and preserve the integrity of each distinct practice.

Accordingly, I hereby disapprove and return Enrolled Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 714.

Sincerely,


Jim Justice
Governor

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

cc: The Honorable Craig Blair
President of the Senate

The Honorable Roger Hanshaw
Speaker of the House of Delegates