

Subject: Protect West Virginia's Certificate of Need Program

Honorable Member of The House of Delegates,

We are reaching out to you as Vandalia Health which consists of CAMC, Davis Health and Mon Health on an urgent matter regarding repeal of CON in West Virginia. We are writing you as your constituent representing one of the largest employers in your district, employing more than 13,000 employees and having conducted over 2.3 million patient care contacts throughout WV to express our strong opposition to repealing West Virginia's Certificate of Need (CON) law.

This crucial health care program ensures that our communities maintain high-quality health care close to home. There's a lot of misinformation surrounding CON laws and its impact on health care in West Virginia.

There's a myth that eliminating CON in West Virginia will create a free market in health care. The fact is that, with or without CON, West Virginia's health care system is not a free market. Currently, 75% of hospital payments come from government payors that pay below the cost of care. Repealing CON will have consequences, such as an influx of out-of-state providers cherry picking commercially insured patients and more profitable services, while essential community health services become financially unsustainable. This bill will jeopardize Vandalia Health's ability to continue to provide NICU, PICU, trauma services, pediatric services, transplant services, oncology services and rehab services, and our ability to continue needed services in rural communities.

Opening the door to those whose focus is on a discrete subset of patients and services undermines the ability of our West Virginia-based hospitals, to provide a hometown system of care that serves everyone, not just a select few. I urge you to strongly oppose any attempt to repeal West Virginia's Certificate of Need program. Any weakening of these regulations could have serious unintended consequences for health care access in our state, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I would appreciate hearing your position and the opportunity to discuss.

Sincerely,

David L. Ramsey, Glenn Crotty, MD, and David Goldberg

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Heidi Edwards

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