



Patrick Morrisey
Office of the Governor

April 1, 2026

VIA HAND DELIVERY

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

RE: Enrolled Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 649

Secretary Warner:

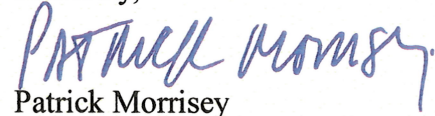
Pursuant to Section Fourteen, Article VII of the Constitution of the State of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove and return Enrolled Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 649. This bill proposes to create a new Medicaid coverage policy regarding home blood pressure monitoring. 87th Leg. Sess. S.B. 649, p. 2 (March 13, 2026).

Hypertension is one of most frequent health conditions in West Virginia, which is why I made it a focus of our Rural Health Transformation Program plans. As everyone is aware, the Rural Health Transformation Program presents a unique opportunity to expand health access and services in West Virginia and develop knowledge to guide long-term health sector investment in a sustainable way. A critical element is its fiscal discipline, which prohibits backfilling of state-mandated services with federal funding. This bill would require the expansion of Medicaid that would result in some duplication of West Virginia's plan, running counter to the existing cooperative agreement with the federal government. This imperils more health funding as well as the long-term advantages from deploying federal dollars for the benefit of all rural West Virginians.

While the purpose of this bill is meritorious, I cannot risk the overlap with our plans for the Rural Health Transformation Program resulting in a reduction of funds or even ineligibility for future awards. Instead, I will work within the parameters of the Rural Health Transformation Program to effectuate the laudable intent of this bill, and to provide invaluable prenatal and postnatal care to all women, not only through home blood pressure monitoring, but also through extended access to quality health care. Accordingly, I hereby disapprove and return Enrolled Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 649.

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Sincerely,



Patrick Morrisey
Governor

cc: The Honorable Randy Smith
President of the Senate

Roger Hanshaw
Speaker of the House of Delegates