



*Patrick Morrissey*  
*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 House Bill 4730**

Dear Secretary Warner:

Pursuant to Section Fourteen, Article VII of the Constitution of the State of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove and return Enrolled House Bill 4730 with the following objections:

This bill is a noble attempt to assist youths who have been in foster care for significant portions of their lives as they age out of that program. *See* 87<sup>th</sup> Reg. Leg. Sess. H.B. 4730 (Mar. 9, 2026). For that, I applaud the tireless efforts of the Sponsor of this bill. He works vigilantly and has invested significant time to find solutions to some of the most difficult and heart-wrenching problems we face in this State. This bill is no exception. The problem is that the bill requires the Department of Human Services to expand services already being offered through its Independent Living and Transitional Living programs and this expansion will cost at least \$5,000,000 in the first year.

Beyond the first year expenses, the bill contains uncontrollable cost-drivers – requirements of a statutory per diem structure, annual COLA increases, fair-market-rent variability, periodic sufficiency reviews, “necessary” adjustments to those costs to increase funds for providers, and a monthly stipend directly to youth, among others. *Id.*, p. 2. Unfortunately, the bill unduly inhibits the Department of Human Services’ ability to develop and implement a cost-conscious program that effectively addresses the goals of the Sponsor and complies with President Trump’s Executive Order *Fostering the Future for American Children and Families*, Nov. 13, 2025.

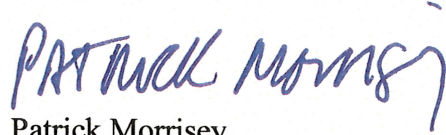
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The concept in the Legislation is a good one. We need to be proactive to help youths who are moving out of the foster care program. I believe that goal can be accomplished through existing initiatives and I will gladly work with the Sponsor to accomplish that task.

As a result of these issues, I hereby disapprove and return Enrolled House Bill 4730.

Sincerely,



Patrick Morrissey  
Governor

cc: The Honorable Randy Smith,  
President of the Senate

The Honorable Roger Hanshaw  
Speaker of the House of Delegates