

Jim Justice
Governor of West Virginia
April 26, 2017

VIA HAND DELIVERY

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

Re: Enrolled Committee Substitute for House Bill 2646

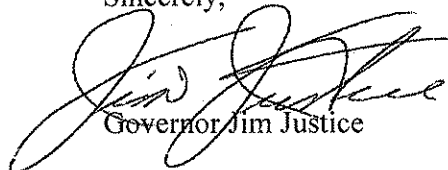
Dear Secretary Warner:

Pursuant to the provisions of section fourteen, article VII of the Constitution of West Virginia, I hereby disapprove and return Enrolled Committee Substitute for House Bill 2646. The WV Women's Commission exists to encourage better health and wellbeing for women in West Virginia through educational, political and economic participation. Women in West Virginia rank near the bottom nationally both in political participation (48th) and employment and earnings (51st). They also have unhealthy rankings nationally in poverty and education (49th) and health and well-being rates (44th)¹.

Now more than ever, the Women's Commission is needed in West Virginia and should not be terminated. Critical to the success of West Virginia women is the continued work of the Women's Commission. Our state's women are too important to be allowed to fall behind in our state's economy. West Virginia needs the women of our state to succeed. Without their success, West Virginia cannot succeed.

For the foregoing reasons, I disapprove and return the Enrolled Committee Substitute for House Bill 2646.

Sincerely,


Governor Jim Justice

cc: The Hon. Tim Armstead
Speaker of the House of Delegates
The Hon. Mitch Carmichael
President of the Senate

¹ All data taken from the 2015 Institute for Women's Policy Research, Status of the Women in the States report.