

March 12, 2019

The Honorable Governor Jim Justice  
West Virginia State Capitol  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard E  
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Governor Justice:

I am writing to ask that you sign SB 537 into law. SB 537 would freeze the current hospice standards and create a work group to review the standards and make recommendations based on accurate data and projected need for hospice services. Your proposal of raising the percentage of deaths a hospice must serve in a county from 25% to 49% could hurt Hospice of Southern West Virginia (HSWV) and many other hospices in the state, resulting in less care rather than more care, especially in rural areas. Your intent with this change may be to ensure that more terminally-ill patients in WV are offered hospice care and that is good, but 49% of all deaths would be higher than the national average of Medicare hospice deaths in 2016.

HSWV as well as other non-profit hospices in the state respectfully ask you to sign SB 537. Please help preserve community-based hospices in rural communities. We want HSWV to continue its mission-driven philosophy of providing “A Special Kind of Caring” to patients and their families for many years to come.

Sincerely,