

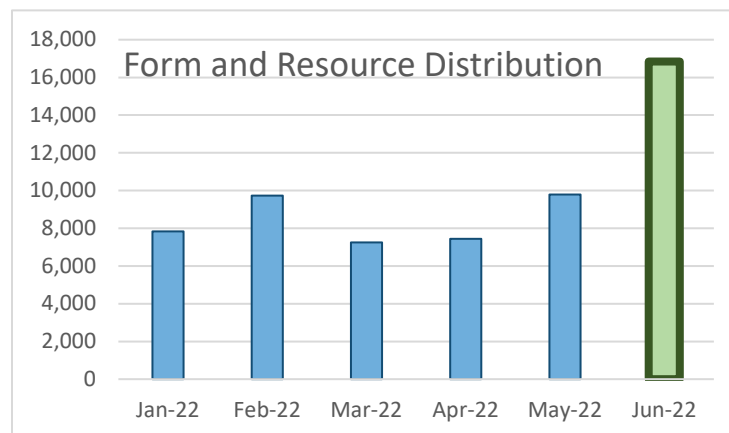
Dear friends,

Consecutively from 2002-2017, the Legislature funded the Center to ensure that West Virginians received the best education, resources, and assistance for medical advance care planning. The Center has remained dedicated to the goal of guaranteeing West Virginians' end-of-life wishes are known and respected throughout the state despite the loss of state funding in FY2017. **Now, the Center needs your help.**

July 1, 2022 marked the 20th anniversary of the WV Legislature's establishment of the Center. Over the past 20 years of service to West Virginia, the Center has:

- Distributed over 1,406,000 forms and resources for free,
- Served approximately 260,000 West Virginians every year,
- Saved West Virginians an estimated \$20-\$46 million per year in unwanted hospitalization at the end of life, and
- Ensured over 131,600 end of life forms for over 97,000 patients are secure and readily available for treatment purposes through the WV e-Directive Registry.

The WV Center for End-of-Life Care (the Center) is West Virginia's official nonprofit organization for medical advance care planning. Recently, the Center had direct involvement in Senate Bill 470 which was signed into law and implemented major revisions to the WV Health Care Decisions Act. This was the first major update to the Health Care Decisions Act in 20 years. Senate Bill 470 became effective June 7, 2022. As predicted, the WV Health Care Decisions Act update prompted increased demand for the Center to help individuals and health care professionals navigate the new forms and law. In June alone, more than double the monthly average of resources were distributed.



The demand for the Center was not limited to form and resource distribution solely. The Center also provided a webinar on the new law updates and on the medical order, the POST form, in a June webinar hosted by the WV Health Care Association. Over 230 health care professionals registered for the webinar which was later evaluated by registrants as earning a 4.9/5.0 in all categories related to content, learning objectives, usefulness, and instruction. Following this major success, the Center was also requested to meet with the leadership at LeadingAge Ohio to discuss the success of the Center and share expertise related to advance care planning and our medical order forms.

The Center is honored to have been able to give back to WV over the last 20 years and looks forward to another 20 years of service to the state. However, the future of the Center and its potential to serve the state is reliant on your actions right now. **It is dire that the state restore funding to the Center.** Please consider contacting Finance Committee Chair Eric Tarr, Finance Committee Vice-Chair Dave Sypolt, Delegate Statler, and Delegate Williams and encouraging them to restore funding for the West Virginia Center for End-of-Life Care from the supplemental appropriations funds for \$438,220. Prompts and contact information are provided at the end of this letter.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Danielle C. Funk Sollenberger, MS
Manager

All mailing addresses below are at: **State Capitol Complex, Charleston, WV 25305**

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Delegate John Williams

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Optional script:

“Hello, I am [identify yourself and your organizational affiliation]. I am calling to offer support to the West Virginia Center for End-of-Life Care and encourage you to restore funding to this much needed resource. [Your reason here] Please restore funding to the WV Center for End-of-Life Care in the amount of \$438,220 so this organization, created by state legislature in 2002, can continue to provide necessary services to the state.”