



## State of West Virginia

### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

September 30, 2020

Dear Members:

In October 2020, the West Virginia Department of Commerce will mail a survey to both private and public employers in the health care industry. This survey is a direct result of HB 4434, the West Virginia Health Care Sustainability Study passed by the state legislature. I am requesting that you encourage employers who receive this survey to complete and return it as soon as possible.

It is vitally important that all health-related entities receive sufficient notification of the survey as well as assurance that all information shared is privileged, confidential and as such will not be disclosed in an unaggregated form: ***“(j) Any material, data, or other writing made or received by the department for the purpose of conducting the research, survey, study, or report, is deemed to be confidential trade secrets which are exempt from disclosure under the provisions of §29B-1-4 of this code.”*** (pg. 6, section (j)). With this information, we will be able to better understand the challenges, opportunities, trends, and other myriad dynamics that make up West Virginia’s health care industry.

In addition, per HB 4434, all recipients of the survey are required to comply with and complete said survey: ***“Any entity, government agency, health care provider, health care facility, or private third-party in receipt of a survey or request for information from the department shall comply with the request and provide any and all requested information pertinent to the research, survey, and study”***. (See attachment, page 3, section (g)). It is critically important that we have a deeper understanding of our state’s health care industry to respond in a more rapid and efficacious manner to secure the health and well-being of all West Virginians.

As such, the distribution of this message to all your members/affiliates would be greatly appreciated and, I believe, will greatly enhance the response, quality, and overall value of the final comprehensive study. This report will be made available to the public and provided to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability (LOCHHRA). The sooner we receive their respective survey responses the sooner we can have a more comprehensive understanding of this most critically important industry.

The survey will be mass mailed on or before October 1, 2020 and will allow for both paper and electronic response. Instructions for successful completion of the survey as well as contact information of agency support staff will be included in the mailing.

Sincerely,

C. Edward Gaunch  
Cabinet Secretary