

Veto No. 2017-2

HB 59

October 19, 2017

To the Honorable House of Representatives
of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 15 of the Pennsylvania Constitution, I am returning herewith, without my approval, House Bill 59, Printer's Number 2255.

In February 2015, I expanded Medicaid to ensure that Pennsylvanians can receive affordable, straightforward, accessible healthcare without unnecessary delays and confusion. Because of this expansion, more people have access to health care, thousands of jobs were created, and billions of dollars were infused into the economy.

Medicaid has served as a critical resource for Pennsylvanians who are suffering from a substance use disorder as our Commonwealth battles an unprecedented prescription drug and heroin public health crisis. Through Medicaid expansion, almost 124,000 newly eligible Medicaid enrollees were able to access drug and alcohol treatment that is critical to helping patients recover from their problems with addiction.

This legislation does not promote health coverage, access and treatment for our seniors, individuals with disabilities and individuals suffering from a substance use disorder. Instead, this legislation increases costs, creates unnecessary delays and confusion, penalizes individuals who need healthcare, and terminates health coverage for those who need it the most.

For the reasons set forth above, I must withhold my signature from House Bill 59, Printer's Number 2255.

TOM WOLF