



March 26, 2020

The Honorable Edward Buchanan, Secretary of State
Herschler Building East,
122 W. 25th Street, Suites 100
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

RE: Veto of HB0119/HEA No. 46 Medicaid Billing for School Based Services

Dear Secretary Buchanan,

After careful consideration of the above reference enrolled act, and the proposed pilot project of Medicaid Billing for School Services, I have determined that while extremely well intentioned, the proposal and spending is not well-timed. Considering current circumstances, saving money until we are ready to fully implement this approach seems warranted. The cost to the state to stand up these new processes is too high without any guarantee of school district participation.

I recognize the amount of time and effort that has been spent over the last few years between consultants, the Legislature, agencies and practitioners in trying to determine the risks, cost savings and feasibility of implementation in Wyoming and I do not believe this effort to be wasted. Still, as this act would have left it in the hands of individual school districts to opt in and participate, the resulting multiple unknowns and unanswered questions that exist within policies and processes, would have made implementation problematic. Therefore, I am vetoing HEA 46.

It appears from this bill, more time is needed to fully understand the impact and/or benefits to the state and school districts. Without the full confidence from the Legislature in this approach, I cannot support using the state's limited resources to stand up experimental new programs within agencies at this time.

I commit to the Legislature and citizens of Wyoming that I will continue to support efforts through the interim and recalibration to determine and enumerate whether and what benefits or possibilities might exist should the Legislature statutorily require Medicaid billing for school based services in all 48 school districts.

Again, I look forward to working with the Legislature as we continue to study and contemplate this important topic.

Sincerely,

Mark Gordon
Governor

cc: The Honorable Steve Harshman, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Drew Perkins, President of the Senate
Chief Clerk, Wyoming House of Representatives
Chief Clerk, Wyoming Senate