

## **West Virginia House Bill 2929 Fails!**

The American Society of Echocardiography (ASE) joined other sonography organizations to oppose this bill. HB 2929 was introduced by the state's Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Technology Board of Examiners and would have placed sonography under the authority of the West Virginia Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Technology Board. This thirteen member committee includes only one sonographer and would have been unfairly dominated by radiologic technologists who may not adequately represent the interests of the sonography community. The bill did recognize national sonography credentialing programs; however it also includes a loophole that permits individuals without adequate sonography education or experience to take a separate state-administered sonography licensing examination.

Despite repeated efforts by the sonography community to offer suggested improvements to the draft bill, the introduced bill remained poorly written and could have resulted in both the misinterpretation and improper implementation of the proposed law – adversely affecting sonographers, the medical community, and the patients we serve.

The committee failed to vote on the proposed bill and it died before reaching the House floor.