

Talking Points
4.19.19

1. **While I would have preferred the Governor veto this bill, I understand that it was a personally difficult decision for her.** She believes, as I do, that it is fundamentally wrong to deny coverage to anyone with a pre-existing condition. She also worries that this legislation was hastily drafted, scant on details, and is fraught with risk, given that only two other states in the nation has fully implemented a similar model. Ultimately, this is why she could not sign the bill. **The Governor is doing what she feels is necessary to accomplish our shared #1 healthcare priority, which is Medicaid Expansion.**
2. **This was a compromise, not a concession.** Shepherding Medicaid Expansion through the Senate is filled with complicated legislative hurdles. On top of that, we must maneuver these challenges with a Senate Leadership team whose only priority is political obstruction. We needed new partners at the table to have a chance at getting this over the finish line. That was the driving force behind the Governor's decision on House Bill 2209.
3. **The Governor's decision is a huge jolt of momentum for Medicaid Expansion.** Had the Governor vetoed House Bill 2209, the conversation about Medicaid Expansion would have ended and been consumed by a divisive veto override attempt. It would have not only shifted the focus of the public debate, it would have likely fractured the bipartisan Expansion coalition, which is filled with supporters of House Bill 2209. The Governor's action avoids a bitter political fight and instead unites a bipartisan coalition together around our shared goal of Medicaid Expansion.
4. **The Governor needs our help to achieve the bigger compromise to be had on healthcare in 2019.** After nearly a decade and \$3 billion lost, the Governor is not willing to let Medicaid Expansion languish for yet another year. Compromise requires us all to accept things we don't like in the name of something bigger, and I appreciate the Governor's willingness to lead by example. While I still oppose House Bill 2209, I recognize that the Governor has brought new partners to the table. I stand ready to throw all of my energy and effort into supporting the Governor's effort to get Medicaid Expansion done in 2019.