## Secretary Manchin Calls on Governor Justice to Veto Politically Motivated Legislation that Hurts WV; Offers to Resign to Protect Programs

Charleston, W.Va. – Today, Secretary Gayle Manchin issued the following statement in regards to HB 4006:

"In an obvious rush to score partisan points, the Republican state legislature passed dangerous and destructive legislation to eliminate the Office of Education and the Arts on a mostly party-line vote. This is a cabinet post that reports directly to the governor and serves thousands across our state; it helps the disabled, provides summer programs for our children through federal funding, and many others that touch families all over West Virginia.

I call on the Governor to veto this reckless and politically motivated legislation that the state legislature passed, or work with me to dissolve this agency, if that's what he wants to do, in a responsible and compassionate way. It's obvious that there aren't any significant financial savings here; we need to get the politics out of this.

I do not believe that a partisan fight is in the best interest of West Virginia. In fact, I know that signing this legislation will hurt our children, seniors, veterans, the disabled, and disaster response training. In addition, it eliminates a statewide advocacy for the arts.

I want to sit down with the Governor, and if it helps, I'll resign to remove any political pressure to save all of these important programs for West Virginians."

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