

JAMES OSCARSON

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State of Nevada
Assembly
Seventy-Ninth Session

September 4, 2018

Jon Pennell, DVM
Chairperson
Nevada State Board of Health

Dear Chair Pennell,

I am pleased to write this letter of support for regulation R102-18 adding "hospitals" to the list of entities who may be licensed to provide community paramedicine services in the State of Nevada.

I am intimately aware of the dire situations facing so many Nevadans dealing with chronic health conditions. It was with these citizens in mind that I sponsored Assembly Bill 305 (2015) to enable our very qualified emergency medical personnel to do what they do best in caring for those in need. Community paramedicine expands the role of these providers in the healthcare system in order to compliment the services of other providers, regardless of where they are employed.

Since the passage of AB305, I have closely followed the implementation of community paramedicine statewide and I know that this minor addition to Nevada's Administrative Code will expand access to care for those who need it most.

I appreciate the Board's continued endeavors to improve access to healthcare across Nevada and I strongly encourage the passing of LCB File No. R102-18.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James Oscarson".

Assemblyman James Oscarson
District 36

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August 7, 2018

Lawrence Weekly, President
Nevada Association of Counties
304 South Minnesota Street
Carson City, NV 89703

Dear Commissioner Weekly:

The 2017 Legislature appointed the Committee to Study the Needs Related to the Behavioral and Cognitive Care of Older Persons (Senate Bill 121 [Chapter 522, Statutes of Nevada 2017]) to conduct an interim study concerning issues regarding the behavioral and cognitive care needs of older persons. At its June 14, 2018 meeting, the Committee members unanimously voted to request the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) to encourage the counties of Nevada to consider expanding the role of their Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to include community paramedicine services. Community paramedicine provides a way to fill the health care service gap in rural areas that either have limited or no primary care services.

During the course of this legislative interim study, the Committee heard from many stakeholders who discussed the benefit of community paramedicine in both rural and urban areas. Community paramedicine utilizes Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) who are clinically trained to conduct in-home visits to individuals who have limited mobility, and who can work under guidance of a medical professional, to manage patients with chronic conditions. As a result, communities across the nation that have implemented community paramedicine are experiencing reductions in hospital readmissions, which are contributing to lower healthcare costs and fewer emergency room visits. It should be noted that many of these services may be eligible for Medicaid reimbursements.

Given the potential benefits that community paramedicine may have on persons with behavioral and cognitive health issues, the Committee encourages all Nevada counties to consider expanding these services into their communities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 702-896-1453 or via e-mail at Joyce.Woodhouse@sen.state.nv.us, or Committee Staff Sarah Coffman at 775-684-6463 or scoffman@lcb.state.nv.us, with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce Woodhouse".

Senator Joyce Woodhouse



August 6, 2018

To Whom It may Concern:

Mineral County Fire and EMS is in whole hearted support of the Mineral County Community Paramedicine program which is under the direction of Mt Grant General Hospital. We see this program as a valuable component of the overall health care delivery for not only Mineral County, but all of rural Nevada.

Our county has a statically large population of elderly patients who are frequent users (and sometimes abusers) of the EMS system, and the addition of a community Paramedicine provider will not only provide on site care and support to these patients, but will also reduce the needless access of the EMS system for non emergent requests for assistance.

As a life long resident of this community I have seen the need for this type of service for years and am very excited about observing the positive impact this program will have on our community.



Chris Lawrence
Chief MCFD