



STATE OF NEVADA
COMMISSION ON BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



March 24th, 2023

Brenda Erdoes
Director, Legislative Counsel Bureau
401 S. Carson St.
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Director Erdoes,

This letter serves as a support for the following bill drafts presented by Clark, Washoe, Rural and the Northern Regional Behavioral Health Policy Boards presented during the Commission on Behavioral Health meeting on February 9, 2023.

- Clark Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board – SB 68
- Washoe Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board – AB 69
- Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board – AB 37
- Northern Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board – AB 9

The above bills address and provide solutions related to affordable housing, workforce, development, staff retention, training and enhancing professional collaborations to meet the behavioral health needs of Nevada citizens.

- Affordable supportive housing for Nevadans presenting with mental illnesses, substance abuse, and disabilities of all types through real property transfer tax (Clark Regional Behavioral Health Policy).
- Expand the loan repayment program administered by the Nevada Health Service Corps to include behavioral healthcare providers working in crisis response systems, K-12 behavioral health settings and faculty reimbursement who provide training to future healthcare professionals (Washoe Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board).
- Increase the behavioral health workforce by creating a pipeline for behavioral health providers, expand existing successful programs and introduce new programs and connections across the educational system and professional licensing boards based on successful models from Nebraska and Illinois (Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy)
- Expand boards duties to include cohesion, collaboration and develop cooperative working relationships between agencies and providers of Behavioral Health services and programs to meet the behavioral health and workforce development needs (Northern Regional Health Policy).

Affordable housing, expanding workforce development options, and retaining, training, and enhancing professional collaborations to meet the behavioral health needs can improve the health outcomes for Nevada citizens.

Sincerely,

Braden Schrag
Chair
Nevada Commission on Behavioral Health

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