



*Joe Lombardo*  
Governor

*Julia Ratti*  
Chair

## Washoe Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board

March 1, 2023

Senator Dina Neal  
Chair, Senate Revenue and Economic Development  
Committee Members, Senate Revenue and Economic Development

Dear Chair Neal and Members of the Committee:

The Washoe Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board (WRBHPB) would like to express its support for Senate Bill 68 developed by the Clark Region Behavioral Health Policy Board which addresses creating sustainable supportive housing tailored to multiple populations.

Thousands of individuals and families in Nevada are at risk of suffering new or exacerbating existing behavioral health and addiction challenges **due to the extreme stress of housing instability**. Nevada has the largest gap between the number of affordable (subsidized) units available to Extremely Low Income (ELI) households and the size of our ELI population. Senate Bill 68 proposes to address this gap with the establishment of a Critical Needs fund.

Utilizing revenue from an increase in real property transfer tax, the Critical Needs fund will leverage these resources, while filling gaps where very and extremely low-income individuals and families may not meet other programs' eligibility criteria, always moving individuals receiving assistance toward other permanent sources of funding and toward greater self-sufficiency.

This piece of legislation supports concepts that the WRBHPB has identified as issues of concern and focus. We believe Senate Bill 68 is an important and continuing step towards addressing behavioral health issues that can be related back to housing insecurity and support its passage.

Thank you for your continuing support and representation of Nevadans everywhere!

Julia Ratti, Director of Programs and Projects,  
Washoe County Health District  
Chair, Washoe Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board

Steve Shell, Vice President of Behavioral Health  
Renown Health  
Vice-Chair, Washoe Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board