

Nevada Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



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Public Comment to the Nevada Legislative Committee on Health Care

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

My name is Leann McAllister and I am the executive director of the Nevada Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. The Nevada AAP has 265 members and is mainly comprised of board-certified pediatricians, both primary and specialty care, members also include pediatric nurse practitioners, physician assistants, pediatric residents and medical students, all of whom live and work in Nevada and have dedicated their professional lives to the health of all children.

Earlier this month, the World Health Organization reported that in 2018 measles infected nearly 10 million people worldwide and killed 140,000, mostly children. Our chapter joins with the larger international American Academy of Pediatrics, and its 67,000 members, urging parents to make the decision to immunize. AAP pediatricians, and their administrative support staff like me, strongly recommend timely vaccinations because of what we know to be true: Vaccines are simply the best way to protect our children from viruses and bacteria that cause real and devastating harm.

This is my first time addressing this Committee and I hope that whenever members of the Nevada Legislature have need of scientific research or expert witnesses on any issue impacting the health of children in Nevada, that you will call upon me and the members of the Nevada Chapter of the AAP to get you the empirical information you seek.

In the recent words of the World Health Organization's director-general, "The fact that any child dies from a vaccine-preventable disease like measles is frankly an outrage and a collective failure to protect the world's most vulnerable children."

Thank You.

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Agenda Item II C (HEALTH CARE)
Meeting Date: 12-11-19