

Good Morning Esteemed Committee Members:

On behalf of the Children's Advocacy Alliance and Nevada's children, we implore you to prioritize the critical investments needed to support the mental health of children. Indeed there is a national mental health crisis afoot that has manifested as a statewide crisis in Nevada, with disproportionate impacts for Nevada's most vulnerable youth population. As you consider the finite resources available to the state, consider the latent effects of the crisis and ways that it has impacted every major system, including our education, child welfare and mental health system. These impacts indicate that it is far more costly to continue responding as we have than to ensure new levels of investment in children's mental health. Given the far reaching impacts and latent effects of this crisis, we must act now to ensure our state's recovery and the future of our children.

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