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NevadaAAP.org

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2021 - 2022**

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The Nevada Chapter of the
American Academy of
Pediatrics is incorporated in the
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Nevada Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



Public Comment to the Nevada Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Thursday, 21 July 2022

My name is Leann McAllister. I am the Executive Director of the Nevada Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (Nevada AAP).

Today's agenda item VIII will focus on public health prevention and wellness initiatives and programs to address noncommunicable chronic diseases. Ten to twenty million children and adolescents in the United States have some form of chronic illness or disability. Chronic refers to a health condition that lasts anywhere from three months to a lifetime. Chronic disease prevention is a critical part of maintaining a child's overall good health, and although many preventive strategies are simple, safe, and effective, parents need help from elected leaders to guard against a variety of potentially serious illnesses.

I am excited for you to hear today from Dr. Steven Shane who is the Obesity Prevention Chair at the Nevada AAP and a leader in obesity prevention. At future committee meetings I hope that you will call on other Nevada AAP leaders to share with you ideas for legislative action that could greatly improve the health of Nevada's children.

Our leaders include:

- Dr. Jose Cucalon Calderon, our E-cigarette Chapter Champion, who fiercely advocates to protect children from the many chronic diseases stemming from smoke, tobacco, and other dangerous products,
- Dr. Deb Hendrickson, a national expert on the impact of the climate crisis on health who is advocating for renewable choices for consumers in Nevada as well as support to switch from gas to electric appliances, and
- Dr. Terence McAllister who is passionate about sleep deprivation and the cost of early school start times on adolescent mental and physical health.

The Nevada AAP currently has 262 members, most of whom are 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.