



Centennial Hills Hospital • Desert Springs Hospital • Henderson Hospital  
Spring Valley Hospital • Summerlin Hospital • Valley Hospital

October 14, 2022

Chair Denis, Vice Chair Carlton, and the Esteemed Legislative Members of the Interim Finance Committee

As the Leader of the Valley Health System of Hospitals, the Northern Nevada Medical System of Hospitals, and 40 years spent as a Nevada healthcare professional, what the Governor and Legislature have a chance to do on October 20<sup>th</sup> could absolutely transform the face of Nevada's healthcare system.

Items #114 and 115 on the ARPA list of spending requests provides \$15M to the Nevada Transplant Institute. You will hear public testimony on the 20th from Nevadans who have had to leave their Nevada homes and re-locate for months at a time to be closer to the transplant facility able to perform the lifesaving operation so crucial to their survival. That is a huge burden on those 600 plus Nevadans waiting for a transplant, and it's an even bigger sacrifice for their families.

The \$15 million requested of the State would be a crucial part of the \$35 million campaign called "End the Wait" that the Nevada Donor Network Foundation (NDNF) established to develop the Nevada Transplant institute in Nevada. This funding will expand the current kidney transplant program at UMC in Las Vegas, and will also create a new liver transplant program in its initial two years. The NDNF, in partnership with Nevada Donor Network (NDN) and Nevada Hospitals statewide will recruit qualified physicians, nurses and support staff to Nevada to implement a successful transplant program. It is estimated that within 12 months, this program would be fully operational and self-sustaining by month 25. Nevada residents will no longer have to seek life-saving care in surrounding states. They will be evaluated locally, transplanted locally and cared for locally.

This work program request as a part of the End the Wait campaign has the potential to transform our entire healthcare system. It benefits those Nevada's families that need organ transplants, but an Institute like this will also attract more specialized healthcare professionals, it will foster medical research, and help grow Nevada's economic development efforts in healthcare.

The Hospitals that I represent are located statewide and we are absolutely in support of this request for funding and thank you in advance for your support of items 114 & 115.

Sincerely,

Karla Perez, Vice President – Acute Division  
Regional Vice President