

October 19, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ([IFC@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:IFC@lcb.state.nv.us))

Nevada Legislature - Interim Finance Committee  
C/O Fiscal Analysis Division  
401 South Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701



RE: October 20<sup>th</sup> IFC Meeting – Support for ARPA Work Program Item #91  
Assisted Living Facility and Nursing Facility Workforce Initiative

Interim Finance Committee Members,

The Nevada Health Care Association/Nevada Center for Assisted Living is a statewide association that represents both assisted living facility and nursing facility members. **We are writing in support of ARPA Work Program #91 – the assisted living facility and nursing facility workforce initiative.**

We want to thank Governor Sisolak and his staff as well as Director Whitley and his team for working with long term care facilities to help develop this proposal.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all of us. Fortunately, most of us have not been on the front lines fighting to protect others from this deadly virus. Long term caregivers stepped directly into the fray to protect Nevada's most vulnerable population throughout the pandemic. Nevada has one of the lowest COVID-19-related nursing home mortality rates in the nation because of their dedicated work to seniors.

Nationally, our long-term care workforce looks something like this:

**Parental Status**

- 31% of direct care works in nursing homes children under the age of 18
- 24% have children under the age of 5

**Gender**

- 87% of the direct care workforce are women
- 53% are women of color
- 91% of nursing assistants in nursing homes are women

**Race/Ethnicity**

- 61% of direct care workers are people of color
- 32% are Black/African American
- 19% are Hispanic/Latino
- 7% are Asian or Pacific-Islander
- 3% identify as other races or ethnicities

Recent Bureau of Labor and Statistics data shows that it will take the long-term care profession at least 4 years to recover and rebuild workforce back from the effects of the pandemic. This ARPA funding will help long term care communities maintain the workforce we have and recruit new caregivers into our professions.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, nursing homes and residential-care facilities (assisted living) employed three million people in July, down 380,000 workers from February 2020. Nursing home employment has fallen every month except one since March 2020.

Please support Nevada's long term care workforce by approving work program #91 that will fund a nursing facility and assisted living facility workforce initiative.

Sincerely,

*Brett S.*

Brett Salmon, President/CEO  
Nevada Health Care Association  
Nevada Center for Assisted Living