



December 12, 2022

**Attention:** Chair Dondero Loop and Members of the Interim Finance Committee

On behalf of the Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD), I am pleased to take this opportunity to support items #13 and #14 on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) list of spending requests for a one-time allocation of \$10 million dollars to Roseman University to establish the first private, non-profit, MD-granting medical school in Nevada, helping to enable the state's communities to overcome the chronic shortage of physicians, improve healthcare delivery and outcomes, and significantly contribute to the state's economy.

SNHD embraces the mission, vision, and values represented by Roseman University College of Medicine and supports the College of Medicine's executive leadership team of highly talented, accomplished, and credentialed healthcare professionals led by Dean Dr. Pedro 'Joe' Greer, recipient of the 2009 Presidential Medal of Freedom. This crucial funding from the state will go toward start-up phase requirements to hire the critical faculty and staff needed as the College of Medicine continues through the rigorous accreditation process.

State of Nevada healthcare statistics are dismal. Nevada currently ranks 47<sup>th</sup> in the number of physicians per 100,000 population and 49<sup>th</sup> in the number of primary care physicians per 100,000 population. Just to maintain current levels of physician manpower, Nevada will need an additional 1,113 primary care physicians by 2030. This holds true for all seventeen Nevada counties who have claimed a serious shortage in physician manpower. It's mandatory that Nevada implement homegrown plans to significantly increase its physician workforce.

In addition to its positive impact on Nevada's physician workforce shortage, Roseman's College of Medicine will bring significant new investment to the region and has the potential to bring additional economic development through clinical and research partnerships and private business expansions.

In a recent report generated by the nationally renowned research firm Tripp Umbach, by 2040, Roseman's College of Medicine is projected to generate more than \$1 billion in total economic impact for the State of Nevada. The College of Medicine alone will account for half of the overall economic impact. Further included in the report is the multi-faceted impact that the College of Medicine would have regarding spin-off investments in the state, keeping patients in the state, attracting patients from out of state, healthcare cost savings, and population health improvement. Additionally, Roseman's College of Medicine would support approximately 3,400 jobs in the region and generate \$27.4 million in state and local government revenue. Positive government revenue is an important benefit of private medical schools because unlike state-supported schools, private institutions receive no ongoing state funding for operations.

I fully endorse, on behalf of SNHD, Roseman University College of Medicine's request for ARPA funds and urge the Office of the Governor and the Department of Health and Human Services to approve and grant their request for \$10 million. I believe in the State of Nevada's need for the College of Medicine and the



meaningful and sustainable impact it will have on both the economy and improved healthcare outcomes for Nevadan communities.

I appreciate your consideration and thank you in advance for your efforts in support of items #13 and #14.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Fermin S'.

Fermin Leguen, MD, MPH  
District Health Officer  
Southern Nevada Health District

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