

December 13, 2022

Chair Dondero Loop and Members of the Interim Finance Committee:

In my capacity as Chief Medical Officer at Dignity Health, St. Rose Dominican Siena Campus, it is my pleasure to highly recommend that Roseman University College of Medicine receive the one-time requested funds from the American Rescue Plan, in the amount of \$10 million dollars, per items #13 and #14 on the list of spending requests that you are due to review.

Building on over 20 years of success in educating healthcare professionals in pharmacy, nursing, and dentistry, Roseman University - as a Nevada-based, private, not-for-profit university specializing in educating and training the next generation of highly competent, much-needed health care professionals - is uniquely well-positioned to contribute to Nevada's continued need for physicians.

My knowledge of College of Medicine Dean Dr. Joe Greer, and the team of outstanding academics that he has assembled to lead the College of Medicine's mission, leaves no doubt that Roseman will take medical education and healthcare transformation to the next level in southern Nevada, addressing the critically low numbers of physicians, the aging physician workforce, the rapid population increase, the increasing diversity of the population, the need for graduate medical education, and the number of years required to produce a practicing physician (seven to ten years from beginning of medical school); all of which points to the urgent need for a second MD-granting medical school in the State of Nevada.

According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, in 2017 Nevada ranked 47th in the country in the number of physicians per 100,000 population and 48th in the number of primary care physicians per 100,000 population. The percentage of medical school graduates from Nevada who practice primary care is in the bottom half of the national rankings. Nevada's physician shortage is even more severe than in most states. The need for more primary care physicians, as shown by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Health Workforce, is significant. As of December 2018, there are 7,026 Primary Care HPSAs. Nevada's growing and aging population requires more doctors to care for them.

A new medical school at Roseman University will not only generate a positive economic impact and dramatically improve population health status, it will help to enable Nevada to become an important world-wide destination for quality healthcare, representing a vital step in both healthcare and economic development.

Roseman's College of Medicine will address what is missing in healthcare in Nevada and significantly contribute to improving healthcare conditions and growing the economy to the benefit of all communities in Nevada.

I am absolutely in support of this important and essential request for funding per items #13 and #14 and thank you in advance for your dedication to its serious consideration for approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Rodney Buzzas", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Rodney Buzzas

Chief Medical Officer

Dignity Health, St. Rose Dominican Siena Campus