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Fabian Donate ([Fabian.Donate@state.nv.us](mailto:Fabian.Donate@state.nv.us))  
[hhsinterim@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:hhsinterim@lcb.state.nv.us)

Re: Written Testimony Regarding R059-23 (AB156)

Hello Chair Donate and Members of the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services,

As Dean of Roseman University of Health Sciences College of Pharmacy, I am providing this letter regarding Regulation R059-23 to explain the training pharmacy students receive in our program before sitting for the National and State board exams to become licensed pharmacists. As required by the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP), only students who graduate from an accredited Doctor of Pharmacy program are eligible to sit for the North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination (NAPLEX). The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE) is the national program that oversees the accreditation of pharmacy programs in the United States. In Nevada, pharmacists must also pass the Multistate Pharmacy Jurisprudence Examination (MPJE) to be eligible for licensure.

Our rigorous curriculum includes over 1,600 hours of didactic teaching time and 1,800 hours of pharmacy practice time. In accordance with our accreditation standards, our faculty are appropriately credentialed and experts in their fields of teaching. During our Therapeutics and Disease State Management: Psychiatry (Phar 519) course Farzad Kamyar, MD, who is board-certified in Psychiatry and Addiction Medicine, delivers 16 hours of teaching time including training to identify, diagnose, and treat opioid use disorder.

In regard to R059-23 which would allow pharmacists to assess and prescribe medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD), our students receive the following education/training prior to graduation:

1. Assessment, screening, and patient case courses:
  - a. PHAR 565: Pharmacists Patient Care Process – teaches students to assess patient needs, develop a treatment plan, implement the plan, review the plan, and modify the plan as needed. Requires students to appropriately communicate and document.
  - b. PHAR 566: Integrated Pharmacotherapy Skills – students work on complex patient cases providing comprehensive care for multiple disease states, social determinants of health, and medication management.
  - c. PHAR 599: Interprofessional Education – includes Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) training.
2. Clinical Training and Courses:
  - a. Naloxone and Harm Reduction Training required during orientation.
  - b. PHAR 420: Neuropharmacology and Medicinal Chemistry
  - c. PHAR 519: Therapeutics and Disease State Management: Psychiatry

3. Optional Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience (APPE):
  - a. 6-week Psychiatry Rotation in a Psychiatric Hospital
  - b. 6-week Ambulatory Care Rotation in a Substance Use Disorder Treatment Center

The profession of pharmacy is rapidly evolving. It is expected that PharmD graduates are prepared to be medication experts ready to assess and prescribe medications as our state laws and regulations permit. In the state of Nevada, this is already in practice for pharmacists who dispense birth control without a prescription and who prescribe medication for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for HIV. Our curriculum has, and will continue to, evolve to meet the needs of the communities we serve in Nevada.

Sincerely,



Larry Fannin, BS Pharm, PharmD  
Dean, College of Pharmacy

cc: [David.Orentlicher@asm.state.nv.us](mailto:David.Orentlicher@asm.state.nv.us)  
[Rochelle.Nguyen@sen.state.nv.us](mailto:Rochelle.Nguyen@sen.state.nv.us)  
[Robin.Titus@sen.state.nv.us](mailto:Robin.Titus@sen.state.nv.us)  
[Tracy.BrownMay@asm.state.nv.us](mailto:Tracy.BrownMay@asm.state.nv.us)  
[Ken.Gray@asm.state.nv.us](mailto:Ken.Gray@asm.state.nv.us)  
[Brian.Hibbetts@asm.state.nv.us](mailto:Brian.Hibbetts@asm.state.nv.us)  
[Duy.Nguyen@asm.state.nv.us](mailto:Duy.Nguyen@asm.state.nv.us)