

Dear Chair Cannizzaro and Members of the Legislative Commission,

I write to you in support of passing regulation, 059–23 authorizing pharmacist to assess and prescribe medications for opioid use disorder in Nevada. I would like to thank the legislators for passing AB 159 last session and the Nevada Board of Pharmacy for their diligence in bringing this regulation together.

This statute and regulation offer a solution to a crisis facing our nation, Nevada, our communities, and in many cases our own families. In 2021, according to the CDC, 192 persons died per day in the US from a fentanyl-related overdose/poisoning; that's one person every eight minutes. This statistic, although appalling does not capture the full measure of how this crisis has impacted our lives. Opioid related overdose/poisoning is now the leading cause of death in our young adults above any other medical condition, and yet there remain barriers to accessing life-saving treatment.

I am a longtime resident of Nevada, a licensed pharmacist, a Professor of Pharmacy Practice at Roseman University, and a collaborative practice pharmacist for Behavioral Health Group (a federally certified Opioid Treatment Program). In this setting, I see the many faces of Nevadans seeking care and having to overcome barriers and obstacles to receive it. I also see individuals engaging in their recovery journey and how treatment changes lives. In my role as faculty, I am also privileged to train future pharmacists in this clinical practice, who get to know and care for the needs of our patients. From the classroom to clinical practice, I am passionate about educating future healthcare professional about substance use disorders, effective treatments, and their role in addressing the opioid epidemic.

We are in a crisis of unseen proportion requiring an all hands on deck approach. With all healthcare professionals working together, we can make a difference in Nevada. Please vote to implement this regulation and add more hands to the work to be done.

Sincerely,



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