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Sen. Skip Daly, Chairman

Sunset Subcommittee of the Legislative Commission

[Sunset@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:Sunset@lcb.state.nv.us)

**Re: Advisory Council on Graduate Medical Education**

Dear Chairman Daly:

I write to wholeheartedly endorse Senate Bill 350. The Advisory Council on Graduate Medical Education is a much needed piece of infrastructure to support the growth of graduate medical education (GME) programs in the state of Nevada. Several states have devised a similar state-based solution that involves a committee or advisory council to steer their future development of GME because federal efforts have stalled.<sup>1</sup>

Nevada ranks 48th for primary care physicians per 100,000 population and is currently ranked 45th for active physicians per 100,000.<sup>2</sup> The downstream effects reveal that Nevada residents are experiencing worsened health outcomes in chronic conditions like diabetes due to difficulty accessing primary health care services and long wait times for their specialty care.<sup>3</sup>

Physicians are more likely to practice where they've completed their residency or fellowship training.<sup>4</sup> Nevada is seriously under-allocated to provide GME training, and as a result, medical

students graduate and leave the state to pursue their training. This mismatch doesn't have to be seen as a problem as the opportunity is clear - more physicians will practice in Nevada if given the pathway to train here.

At the present time, Nevada has no ACGME-accredited training programs in urology, neurosurgery, general pathology, hematology/oncology (adult or pediatric), allergy and immunology, colon and rectal surgery, dermatology, pediatric cardiology, ophthalmology, radiation oncology, and thoracic surgery, to name a few.<sup>5</sup> The Advisory Council of Graduate Medical Education serves as a beacon of hope to prioritize these new programs into existence for the benefit of all Nevadans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

*Kate Martin, MD*

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<sup>1</sup>State-Based Approaches to Reforming Medicaid-Funded Graduate Medical Education, University of North Carolina.

[https://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/ExecSumm\\_FraherGME\\_v3\\_final-1.pdf](https://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/ExecSumm_FraherGME_v3_final-1.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>Physician Workforce in Nevada: A Chartbook, University of Nevada Health Workforce Research Center.

<http://www.nevadapublichealthinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/22-PWIN-Chartbook-FINAL-1-18-22.pdf>

<sup>3</sup>Report: Nevada drops in national health rankings amid long waits, doctor shortage. *The Nevada Independent*.

<https://thenevadaindependent.com/article/report-nevada-drops-in-national-health-rankings-amid-long-waits-doctor-shortages>

<sup>4</sup>Report: 'NV Worst in Nation' for Access to Primary Care Providers. *Public News Service*.

<https://www.publicnewsservice.org/2022-12-21/health/report-nv-worst-in-nation-for-access-to-primary-care-providers/a82062-1>

<sup>5</sup>Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) - Public Access.

<https://apps.acgme.org/ads/Public/Programs/Search>

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**Office of Graduate Medical Education**

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