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Member

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State of Nevada Assembly

Seventy-Eighth Session

November 15, 2016

**This letter was sent to all of Nevada's
Congressional Delegation.**

The Honorable Dean Heller
324 Hart Senate Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0001

Dear Senator Heller:

During the 2015-2016 Legislative Interim, I served as chair of Nevada's Legislative Committee on Health Care (LCHC). As a result of hearings concerning Nevada's severe shortage of health care professionals and the effect this shortage has on patient access to care, the LCHC seeks the assistance of Nevada's Congressional Delegation. Specifically, the LCHC requests your assistance with increasing in-State graduate medical education (GME) opportunities.

Currently, more students graduate from medical school in Nevada than in-State residency training slots can accommodate—making Nevada a net exporter of medical school graduates. Enabling medical school graduates to finish their training in Nevada is critical to improving the workforce. Data show that 68 percent of residents live and practice where they complete medical school and residency training.

At the State level, we have taken steps to address this problem by increasing GME funding. In 2015, Governor Sandoval recommended and the Legislature approved a \$5.25 million annual budget appropriation for GME in each year of the 2015-2017 Biennium. The LCHC is encouraging continuation of such funding for the 2017-2019 Biennium. Continuing to appropriate funding to expand graduate medical education will help fund additional training slots in both new and existing medical school programs. As new medical schools open in Nevada, it is more important than ever to ensure that sufficient in-State training opportunities are available.

The Honorable Dean Heller

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To improve the much needed health care workforce in Nevada and to increase the number of Nevada-trained medical professionals who remain in and practice in the Silver State, the LCHC requests your assistance in ensuring that:

- No additional cuts are made to graduate medical education funding in Nevada; and
- Full-time equivalent GME slots are redistributed to Nevada hospitals.

Thank you for your partnership in improving the health care workforce in Nevada.

Sincerely,



Assemblyman James Oscarson, Chair
Legislative Committee on Health Care

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