



March 1, 2023

Chair Doñate and members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee:

The Nevada Psychiatric Association (NPA) strongly supports the codification of Nevada's one medication fail rule in Medicaid policy into state statute through SB177. As an organization dedicated to improving mental health care for all Nevadans, we believe that this policy will help to ensure that patients receive the most effective and appropriate treatment for their mental health conditions.

The one medication fail rule has been shown to improve patient outcomes by limiting the number of medication trials a patient must undergo before receiving effective treatment. This policy helps to prevent the unnecessary suffering and potential harm caused by multiple medication failures, including increased risk of adverse effects, drug interactions, and medication nonadherence. Additionally, it encourages physicians to make more informed decisions when prescribing medications, which can ultimately lead to better patient outcomes.

We note that some other states, including Arizona, Colorado, and Oklahoma, have implemented policies requiring at least three medication failures before a patient can try the medication prescribed by their doctor. However, the NPA opposes such policies, and indeed would support open access instead of having to fail one medication. In this case, codifying the one medication fail rule in Nevada's state statute will ensure that Nevada Medicaid does not implement harsher policies that could harm patients.

We urge the Nevada State Legislature to codify the one medication fail rule into state statute through SB177. Doing so will help to ensure that patients receive the most effective and appropriate treatment for their mental health conditions, and that they are able to achieve the best possible outcomes. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Lesley Dickson" followed by a stylized flourish.

Lesley Dickson, MD
NPA State Legislative Representative