



Date: March 1, 2023

To: Chair Peters and Members of the Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services

From: The Nevada Health Care Workforce and Pipeline Development Workgroup

Re: Assembly Bill 45

Chair Peters and Committee Members,

As Nevada works to address its severe shortage of health care providers—especially in rural and underserved areas of the state—it is critical to provide incentives for a wide variety of health professionals to come to, and stay in, Nevada. Loan repayment is key to helping recruit and retain highly qualified health professionals in communities that otherwise face significant challenges attracting them.

By establishing the Student Loan Repayment for Providers of Health Care in Underserved Communities Program, Assembly Bill 45 incentivizes providers to serve in some of the state’s most underserved communities. It offers an ongoing and innovative funding source through the Abandoned Property Trust Account, and it complements existing loan repayment programs—serving as one of many solutions necessary to address the acute workforce shortages that impact the lives of Nevadans.

The Nevada Health Care Workforce and Pipeline Development Workgroup is a statewide initiative that aims to improve, grow, and diversify Nevada’s public health, behavioral health, and primary care workforces. It brings together more than 40 leaders from throughout the state representing public health, behavioral health, primary care, traditional workforce development, K-12 and higher education, minority health and equity, and community-based organizations to break down the silos in which workforce development has traditionally occurred.

Among the Workgroup’s priorities is increasing incentives that encourage health professionals to practice in Nevada, including expanding eligibility for and use of loan repayment programs. Assembly Bill 45 is a step in this direction and will help encourage critically needed health professionals to practice in Nevada.

Best,

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