

From: [Barry Eliot Cole](#)
To: [Assembly Health and Human Services Exhibits](#)
Subject: Support for AB45
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2023 5:54:15 PM

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services:

I write in support of the amended version of AB45 recommended by our Nevada State Treasurer. The intent of this bill is to expand the list of health care providers eligible to participate in the Student Loan Repayment for Providers of Health Care in Underserved Communities Program; clarify that providers of health care graduating on or after April 30, 2023, can be eligible for the student loan repayment under the program; and expands the list of providers who shall be prioritized to receive student loan repayment to also include psychiatrists as well as providers committing to accepting patients covered by Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program.

The inclusion of psychiatry is a major and demonstrable step toward addressing the mental health provider shortage in Nevada, and creating an incentive for Nevada trainees in our medical schools to work in Nevada after graduating and completing residency training. This will not be the only measure necessary to increase the number of psychiatrists working in Nevada, but it will help many who relied upon student loans to receive undergraduate and graduate education. We will still need more residency positions for primary care, more fellowship positions, more jobs after completing advanced training, more unique and high quality graduate medical education, but this is a significant start and will reward Nevada with more psychiatrists in the coming years.

As a psychiatrist in Nevada since 1986, now volunteer faculty for the UNR Dept. of Psychiatry, mentoring medical students interested in psychiatry during their medical school education, and an active member of the Nevada Psychiatric Association, I urge you to consider and support AB45 as now amended by our State Treasurer.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Barry Eliot Cole, MD, MPA, DLFAPA