

Senate Resolution No. 9—Senators Cannizzaro,  
Settelmeyer, Ratti and Hardy

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE RESOLUTION—Expressing appreciation to certain persons and organizations who provided assistance to the Nevada Legislature with its response to the global COVID-19 pandemic during the 81st Session of the Nevada Legislature.

WHEREAS, The 81st Session of the Nevada Legislature commenced during unprecedented times in the midst of the COVID-19 global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, Richard Whitley, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services, encouraged his staff to work cooperatively with and provide assistance to the Nevada Legislature to ensure the safety of the Legislators, staff members and others meeting in the Legislative Building during the legislative session; and

WHEREAS, The assistance and guidance of the expert staff of the Department were invaluable throughout the legislative session in determining the safest way to bring Legislators, staff members and others together in the Legislative Building; and

WHEREAS, Julia Peek, Deputy Administrator of the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services, was instrumental in coordinating the provision of COVID-19 testing onsite at the Legislative Building throughout the legislative session so that everyone in the building could be tested quickly and easily throughout the session; and

WHEREAS, Julia Peek further assisted in coordinating vaccination events to be held at the Legislative Building so that Legislators, staff members and others could be vaccinated against COVID-19 onsite as early as possible, making it safer to work in the Legislative Building together; and

WHEREAS, Melissa Peek-Bullock, the State Epidemiologist, was available throughout the legislative session to provide expertise regarding best practices, answer questions and assist with determining the appropriate response when positive cases were found within the Legislative Building; and

WHEREAS, Victoria Sepcic, Health Facilities Inspector for the Division, provided prompt and thorough contact tracing of positive cases so that the Legislature could quickly identify any potential exposures and take appropriate action; and

WHEREAS, The State Public Health Laboratory of the University of Nevada, Reno, School of Medicine provided prompt and accurate



test results when additional testing was necessary to confirm positive cases; and

WHEREAS, When it became possible to safely open the Legislative Building to members of the public, David Crowell, Interface Manager of the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, assisted by Emma Fawcett, Administrative Assistant, and other staff of the Division further stepped up by quickly verifying the vaccination status of visitors to the Legislative Building, even spending hours onsite to check the vaccination status of visitors who did not send the information in advance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, That the members of the 81st Session of the Nevada Legislature wish to specifically thank Richard Whitley, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services; Julia Peek, Deputy Administrator of the Division of Public and Behavioral Health; David Crowell, Interface Manager of the Division; Emma Fawcett, Administrative Assistant of the Division, and the other employees of the Division who assisted with verifying the vaccination status of visitors to the Legislature; Melissa Peek-Bullock, State Epidemiologist; Victoria Sepcic, Health Facilities Inspector; the entire team at the Department of Health and Human Services, who went above and beyond, working tirelessly behind the scenes to support the public health response at the Nevada Legislature, and who continue to address the public health response for the State; and Dr. Mark Pandori and his team at the State Public Health Laboratory of the University of Nevada, Reno, School of Medicine, who assisted with the needs of the Legislature; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to Richard Whitley, Director of the Department of Health and Human Services and Dr. Mark Pandori, State Public Health Laboratory; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution becomes effective upon adoption.

