

From: JODY DOMINECK <jodydomineck@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, March 15, 2021 12:35 PM

To: PPC Info <PPCinfo@gov.nv.gov>

Subject: Public comment

Hello Commissioners and Chair,

My name is Jody Domineck, and I have been a nurse in Las Vegas for 15 years, and a nursing educator for 3 years. I am hopeful as this committee looks at workforce issues in the state of Nevada that there will be recommendations to address the nursing shortage we are facing. I see this as a two fold issue. The working conditions make it undesirable to work in Nevada. This is in part to the lack of nurses in the state, but also the hospitals staffing matrices. Patient care is known to suffer when there are more patients per nurse. Even when nurses are available frequently hospitals have not used them to meet staffing goals regardless of patient need. This leads to unsafe conditions for patients, and dangerous working conditions for nurses. This leads to more nurses leaving our state as they fear for their patients safety and their license.

The other issue that exists is a shortage of nurse educators. According to the American Academy of Colleges of Nursing report *2019-2020 Enrollment and Graduations in Baccalaureate and Graduate Programs in Nursing*, are as many qualified applicants to schools of nursing that are turned away as are accepted due to lack of faculty and clinical sites. While new technology including high fidelity simulation is being used to address clinical site shortages, additional steps need to be taken to address the nursing faculty shortage. There is a pay disparity for advanced degree nurses between patient care and academia that increases this disparity.

Steps should be taken to address both issues. Safe staffing will attract safety focused nurses to our state, as well as leading to safer conditions to receive care for all Nevadans.

Grants for continuing education for nurses who commit to become a nurse educator in our state, tax benefits for nurse educators similar to those granted to other medical professionals who work in underserved communities, and seeking outside funding for educators and schools of nursing in the state are some avenues to improve this aspect.

Thank you,

Jody Domineck

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality <https://psnet.ahrq.gov/primer/nursing-and-patient-safety>