

December 13, 2022

Re: Average Incomes and Cost

Dear PPC Commissioners:

At the last Patient Protection Commission (PPC) meeting, we shared information from the Kaiser Family Foundation that Nevada had the third lowest health care expenditures per capita in the nation. Since then, we learned that Forbes.com ranks us fourth lowest.

A question arose regarding the income levels of Nevadans. Often, Nevada ranks poorly in comparison to other states, but income is an exception. We are in the middle of the pack! Nevada ranks:

- 25<sup>th</sup> highest in mean household income by state (including D.C.)
- 27<sup>th</sup> highest in median household income by state (including D.C.)
- 30<sup>th</sup> highest in per capita income by state (including D.C.)

*Source: WorldPopulationReview.com*

Wages are increasing in Nevada too. Nevada's personal income was 4.3% higher in 2021 compared to 2020 after accounting for inflation. The U.S. change rate was only 3.1%. Personal income in Nevada increased 5.8% in the second quarter of this year. This is great news.

*Source: Pew Trusts*

*U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis*

Another great piece of news, Nevada's health care costs are lower than most of the country. Using Kaiser Family Foundation data, *Forbes* ranked Nevada among the **"Top 5 States Where Health Care is Least Expensive."** *Forbes* also found that "Nevada had the third lowest increase in overall health care spending per person over a five-year period (13.16%) behind only the District of Columbia and North Carolina."

*Source: Most and Least Expensive States for Health Care, Ranked, Forbes.com*

Nevada ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in the nation for having the lowest Average Benchmark Premium in 2023.

*Source: Kaiser Family Foundation*

Nevada compares well in health care costs to the nation, especially when nursing costs are considered. Nevada ranks sixth (highest) in the nation for RN wages when adjusted for the cost of living. This is a huge expense for Nevada healthcare providers.

*Source: Becker's Hospital Review*



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Unfortunately, the news is not all good. *U.S. News* ranks Nevada 50<sup>th</sup> in the country for access to health care. That is why we continually raise the point that access to health care should be Nevada's focus. Too many Nevadans live in federally designated health professional shortage areas for primary care, dentistry, and mental health.

Let's work to improve access to care!

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick D. Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patrick D. Kelly  
CEO