

Steve Sisolak
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Director



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
PATIENT PROTECTION COMMISSION

Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.



Malinda Southard, DC
Executive Director

Dr. Ikram Khan
Commission
Chairman

Addressee Name
Address
Email

September 19, 2022

Dear [Addressee]:

During its August 17th, 2022, meeting, the [Patient Protection Commission](#) (PPC) voted to include a topic they had been considering as a bill draft request (BDR) for the 2023 Legislative Session to instead be proposed as a line item in the PPC's Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) agency budget for the new biennium (State Fiscal Years (SFYs) 2024-25). The topic is as follows:

Explore opportunities to provide basic health care coverage to infants, children and young adults up to age 26 who are ineligible for full Medicaid coverage under federal law due to their current residency or immigration status. This includes hiring an expert vendor to develop recommendations to the PPC on options to achieve this goal with non-federal, available revenue sources, including braiding local government, private grant, philanthropic, and/or state resources to support this effort.

Among the options considered by the vendor shall include a limited, state-funded Medicaid benefit for this population, similar to California's recent effort to cover this population that leverages limited federal Medicaid funds available to this population for emergency services as part of this benefit. The vendor shall also be asked to conduct a return-on-investment study of at least two options selected by the PPC to inform future proposals and budget requests as they relate to addressing the growth in health care costs related to the health status of this population. The PPC must procure a vendor to complete the analysis at no greater than \$200,000.

The Commission supports the Department of Health and Human Services' request for \$300,000 to fund this important study and wishes to solicit this item for your support during the October 20, 2022 meeting of the Interim Finance Committee. This item carries the full weight and support of the Patient Protection Commission.

The Commission, in being mindful of its total budget request, voted in August to propose a \$200,000.00 line item in the DHHS PPC agency budget to secure funding for an experienced vendor to complete an analysis on policy solutions for uninsured infants, children, and young adults through age 26 who are ineligible for full Medicaid coverage due to their residency or immigration status. The lack of research regarding uninsurance in this population has many unintended consequences for both individuals and the State. The last study of uninsurance in Nevada by the Guinn Center for Policy Priorities estimated that this population makes up about 30 percent of the state's uninsured population. When considering [more recent statistics](#) about the number of individuals without health insurance in Nevada, this population likely consists of about 90,000 residents. Without tangible policy solutions to this problem, Nevada will continue to face the downstream effects of leaving this sizeable population without access to affordable

health care services.

Thus, the PPC feels the return on investing in this population's health is substantial and should be explored further through such an analysis as is proposed. The Department's request instead for \$300,000 will allow the State to secure a higher quality vendor to best perform the fiscal and policy analysis and modeling necessary for informing Nevada policymakers about valuable and feasible solutions for meeting the health care needs of this uninsured population.

Please feel free to reach out to me at the contact information below and let me know if you have any questions or would like additional information on this topic.

Thank you,

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