



October 15, 2024

Nevada Patient Protection Commission
Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
1000 North Division Street
Carson City, NV 89703

Dear Members of the Nevada Patient Protection Commission,

Please accept this letter strongly supporting the establishment of a sustainable Nevada Nursing Workforce Center (NNWC). As a leading academic institution dedicated to the education and advancement of the nursing profession, Orvis School of Nursing recognizes the critical importance of such a center in addressing the current and future needs of our Nevada healthcare system.

There is an urgent need to expand Nevada's nursing workforce due to a shortage that is limiting access to healthcare and increasing societal costs. Despite the influx of nurse graduates and professionals relocating to Nevada, there remains a deficit of 4,000 licensed nurses, driven by both attrition from the profession and an aging workforce approaching retirement age. It is essential to implement evidence-based strategies to boost the number of licensed nurses, enhance workforce diversity, address health professions shortage areas, and expand nursing education programs. Establishing a Nevada Nursing Workforce Center (NNWC) is crucial for developing a sustainable and qualified nursing workforce in Nevada, as seen in other states. This initiative will advance the public good, improve lives, and will increase healthcare access.

The NNWC will offer invaluable resources and support for the recruitment, retention, and development of nursing professionals statewide. This initiative is vital to meeting the growing demand for skilled nurses, particularly in underserved and rural areas. Specifically, a NNWC will play a pivotal role in:

- **Data Collection and Analysis:** Providing accurate and comprehensive data on the nursing workforce to inform policy decisions and workforce planning.
- **Education and Training:** Offering continuing education and professional development opportunities to enhance the skills and competencies of our nursing workforce.

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- **Collaboration and Advocacy:** Facilitating collaboration among educational institutions, nursing organizations, healthcare providers, and policymakers to address workforce challenges and advocate for the nursing profession.

At the Orvis School of Nursing, we are committed to building a coalition with all stakeholders to support initiatives that strengthen the nursing workforce and improve healthcare outcomes for all Nevadans. We believe that a Nevada Nursing Workforce Center is a crucial step in achieving these goals.

We urge the Nevada Patient Protection Commission to support this important initiative and look forward to collaborating on efforts to enhance the nursing profession in our state.

Sincerely,



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