

# Nevada Academy of PAs

*Advancement of its members and the PA profession through academy support, education, public awareness, and legislative action.*



Nevada Patient Protection Commission  
Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)  
Director's Office  
1000 North Division Street  
Carson City, NV 89703

December 12, 2024,

RE:

- SB 29 (BDR 38-450) - requires Nevada Medicaid increase physician and APRN reimbursement rates and establish an accountable care payment model.
- SB 34 (BDR 54-449) – requires Nevada enact multiple interstate licensure compacts.

Dear Nevada Patient Protection Commission,

The Nevada Academy of Physician Assistants (NAPA) represents Physician Associates/Assistants (PAs) in Nevada. NAPA is dedicated to the advancement of the PA profession through advocacy and public awareness.

On behalf of the Nevada Academy of PAs (NAPA), I write to express our appreciation for the Commission's efforts to advance healthcare access and delivery across Nevada. We support your inclusion of PAs in **Senate Bill 34 (SB 34; BDR 54-449)**, which seeks to enact multiple interstate licensure compacts. This important initiative will help ensure that Nevada continues to attract and retain a highly skilled healthcare workforce capable of meeting the needs of our diverse communities. NAPA is available to provide additional information or support as needed to assist in this endeavor.

In addition, we would like to express concern regarding **Senate Bill 29 (SB 29; BDR 38-450)**.

Specifically, we urge the Commission to support amending the bill to include PAs in the proposed reimbursement rate increases alongside physicians and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs).

PAs are licensed medical providers who deliver high-quality, patient-centered care comparable to physicians and APRNs. Excluding PAs from these reimbursement adjustments would create a financial disparity that could negatively impact our ability to serve patients, particularly those in rural and underserved areas. Ensuring payment parity among PAs, APRNs, and physicians reflects the critical role PAs play in the healthcare system and helps maintain equitable access to care for all Nevadans.

Research supports the inclusion of PAs in payment parity initiatives. Studies consistently demonstrate that care provided by PAs yields outcomes equivalent to that of physicians and APRNs.

Medicare and most Medicaid programs already recognize this by reimbursing PAs and nurse practitioners (NPs) at the same rate. Disparities in reimbursement policies undermine efforts to meet growing healthcare demands and reduce barriers to care in underserved communities.

**We respectfully request that the Commission advocate for an amendment to SB 29 that includes PAs in any proposed reimbursement rate increases.** Doing so will align Nevada with best practices nationwide and support a robust, inclusive healthcare workforce dedicated to improving patient outcomes.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to advancing healthcare in Nevada.

Please do not hesitate to contact NAPA if we can provide further information or assistance regarding these important matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'B. Lauf'.

Brian S. Lauf, DMSc, MPAS, PA-C, DFAAPA  
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