



October 17, 2024

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

Dear Chair Khan and Members of the Nevada Patient Protection Commission,

The Behavioral Health Education, Retention, & Expansion Network of Nevada (BeHERE NV) writes in support of a recommendation in your October 18th work session document. We are pleased to see a proposed increase in state funding to support Nevada Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) to enhance healthcare workforce development pipeline efforts statewide.

As a statewide behavioral health workforce development program, BeHERE NV is committed to recruitment, retention, and ongoing support of Nevada's behavioral health workforce. In the past year, we have had the good fortune to partner with our AHECs on multiple occasions to provide information about behavioral health careers and education pathways to K-12 students and undergraduates across Nevada. This has been such a valuable connection for us as we strive to increase awareness of behavioral health education and career options in our state. Their focus on building a diverse, well-trained workforce aligns with our own, especially with regards to strengthening Nevada's healthcare workforce pipeline in underserved and rural communities. An increase in funding for our AHECs would help to expand their efforts and innovate to meet the rising demand for healthcare professionals statewide.

We appreciate the Commission's consideration of this item and our letter of support. If you would like more information, please feel free to reach out to me at sara.hunt@unlv.edu.

Sincerely,

Sara Hunt, PhD
Executive Director