

**From:** [Casey Melvin](#)  
**To:** [Joseph Filippi](#)  
**Subject:** Gratitude for the Committee's Work & Request for Inclusion of PT 34 Amendment to SB 29  
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Dear Executive Director Filippi,

I hope this message finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to personally commend the Patient Protection Committee for its exceptional work and leadership. Friday's meeting was particularly informative and underscored the thoughtful, tireless efforts being made to address Governor Lombardo's Executive Order-002. It is truly encouraging to see such dedicated focus on resolving Nevada's access-to-care challenges.

One critical area I hope can receive the Committee's further support is the inclusion of an amendment to **SB 29** to address reimbursement rates for **Provider Type 34**. As you know, reimbursement for these providers has not received an upward adjustment in over 40 years. This outdated rate significantly impacts the ability to provide essential Speech-Language Pathology (SLP), Occupational Therapy (OT), and Physical Therapy (PT) services across Nevada.

These therapies address critical needs for individuals with communication, cognitive, physical, and swallowing disorders, positively influencing social participation, academic and professional success, and overall health outcomes. For instance:

- **Speech Therapy** empowers individuals by improving communication, reducing frustration, and enhancing swallowing functionality, which decreases hospital stays and associated costs by up to 52%.
- **Occupational Therapy** supports independence through interventions in daily living, mental health, and developmental needs, helping prevent institutionalization and reducing fall risks among older adults.
- **Physical Therapy** focuses on mobility, strength, and recovery, offering evidence-based solutions that lower the need for surgery and improve chronic pain management, leading to substantial healthcare savings.

Despite these proven benefits, stagnant reimbursement rates have led to shortages in qualified providers and significant barriers to care, particularly for underserved and rural

populations. Addressing these disparities through an amendment to SB 29 will:

- Increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for Provider Type 34, ensuring sustainable service delivery.
- Expand access to care for vulnerable populations, including children with developmental delays, seniors, and individuals recovering from severe injuries.
- Enhance the workforce by making Nevada a more attractive state for therapy professionals.

Investing in these services aligns with Nevada's strategic healthcare goals, as outlined in the Therapy Access to Care Proposal and other legislative advocacy efforts. Research shows that every dollar spent on therapy services yields significant savings in reduced emergency and institutional care, while improving quality of life for patients and their families.

Thank you for your ongoing dedication to Nevada's healthcare landscape and for considering this important request. Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can provide any additional information or insight.

With sincere appreciation,

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