

DISCLAIMER

Electronic versions of the exhibits in these minutes may not be complete.

This information is supplied as an informational service only and should not be relied upon as an official record.

Original exhibits are on file at the Legislative Counsel Bureau Research Library in Carson City.

Contact the Library at (775) 684-6827 or library@lcb.state.nv.us.

*Comments Regarding Senate Bill No. 454
Appropriation for Development of Master's Degree Program for Public Health Nurses
and Dental Hygienists at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

- As part of a University-wide strategic planning process, UNLV has identified health sciences as an emerging area of emphasis for academic and research programs based on the foundation of academic degree programs in the Colleges of Health Sciences, Sciences, Engineering, and the School of Dentistry.
- UNLV is committed to developing health sciences programs that not only increase the number of health care professionals serving the increasing population of Southern Nevada but also to create health care outreach programs to underserved populations such as through the UNLV Dental Clinics and Crackdown on Cancer programs.
- UNLV is currently developing new health sciences administrative strategies that will promote education and research programs in dental medicine, nursing, allied health and human performance, pharmacy, health administration, health promotion and public health. This new strategy builds on existing strengths in health sciences at UNLV and the graduate degree in public health will enhance the movement towards more multidisciplinary efforts across campus.
- New degree programs in the health sciences at UNLV, particularly in public health science and health promotion, are anticipated to address the health needs of Nevadans from an education and prevention perspective, which is far more cost effective than treatment strategies alone. Currently, of the 32 accredited Schools of Public Health in the nation, only 5 are located west of Texas and all of these are located in California and Washington. No accredited School of Public Health is located in the Mountain West states. Clearly, a graduate program in public health would benefit the citizens of Nevada, as well as the entire region.
- Current health professionals in disciplines such as in dentistry, nursing, and pharmacy would greatly benefit from advanced training in public health. Such training would provide new insights and experience regarding methods to characterize patterns of disease in the Nevada population, methods and policies to reduce and prevent disease in Nevadans, and organizational approaches to enhance the public health infrastructure that provides health services to Nevadans.

EXHIBIT M Senate Committee on Finance

Date: 4/2/03 Page 1 of 1