

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Eighty-Second Session
June 3, 2023**

The Committee on Health and Human Services was called to order by Chair Sarah Peters at 3:41 p.m. on Saturday, June 3, 2023, in Room 3138 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4406 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda [[Exhibit A](#)], the Attendance Roster [[Exhibit B](#)], and other substantive exhibits, are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/82nd2023.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Sarah Peters, Chair
Assemblyman David Orentlicher, Vice Chair
Assemblywoman Cecelia González
Assemblywoman Michelle Gorelow
Assemblyman Gregory T. Hafen II
Assemblyman Brian Hibbetts
Assemblyman Gregory Koenig
Assemblywoman Sabra Newby
Assemblyman Duy Nguyen
Assemblywoman Angie Taylor
Assemblywoman Clara Thomas

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Assemblyman Ken Gray (excused)

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Senator Julie Pazina, Senate District No. 12



STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Patrick Ashton, Committee Policy Analyst
Eric Robbins, Committee Counsel
David Nauss, Committee Counsel
Shuruk Ismail, Committee Manager
Terry Horgan, Committee Secretary
Ashley Torres, Committee Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT:

Marc J. Kahn, M.D., M.B.A., M.A.C.P., F.R.C.P., Dean, Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine; Vice President for Health Affairs, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Connor Cain, representing HCA Healthcare
Chris Bosse, Chief Government Relations Officer, Renown Health
Katie Roe Ryan, Director, Public Policy, Dignity Health-St. Rose Dominican
Constance J. Brooks, Vice President, Office of Government and Community Engagement, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Michael Flores, Vice President, Office of Government and Community Engagement, University of Nevada, Reno
Alejandro Rodriguez, Director, Government Relations, Nevada System of Higher Education
Dan Musgrove, representing Valley Health System of Hospitals
Blayne Osborn, President, Nevada Rural Hospital Partners
Dylan Keith, Assistant Director, Government Affairs, Vegas Chamber
Ashley Cruz, representing Touro University Nevada
Barry Cole, Private Citizen, Reno, Nevada
Paul J. Hauptmann, M.D., Dean, School of Medicine, University of Nevada, Reno

Chair Peters:

[Roll was taken. Committee rules and protocol were reviewed.] Welcome to Assembly Health and Human Services. All instructions are on the agenda, and we will do public comment at the end of our hearing. We have one bill today from the Senate. We would like to thank Senator Pazina for coming in to present Senate Bill 350 (2nd Reprint), which revises provisions related to graduate medical education. Everyone has had an opportunity to review the bill, so we look forward to the presentation.

Senate Bill 350 (2nd Reprint): Revises provisions relating to graduate medical education. (BDR 18-553)

Senator Julie Pazina, Senate District No. 12:

Good afternoon, Chair Peters and members of the Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services. I am so proud to come before you today to present Senate Bill 350 (2nd Reprint). As you know, we are facing a shortage of medical professionals in Nevada.

This bill aims to expand graduate medical education opportunities including residency and fellowship programs in the state to ensure that Nevada medical school graduates and physicians stay in Nevada to practice medicine after their residencies or fellowships. On a personal note, and I am sure many of you experienced this when knocking on doors, I had family members crying on their doorstep, speaking to me about spouses, about children, about parents who could not get in to see a doctor—and particularly to a specialist—oftentimes for several months at a time. That is how this bill was born.

I worked with a number of stakeholders on the bill, and while this is not a money committee, the fiscal note was removed from this bill. Also, I have been working with Senator Robin Titus so that in the interim, we can look at more funding for graduate medical education. At this time, there is no money request along with this bill, because \$8.5 million is already part of the Governor's Budget on this, so this would be the policy behind it.

On Zoom today we have Dean Marc Kahn from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas who will say a few words, and then I am happy to answer any questions. Thank you again for the opportunity to be here.

Chair Peters:

Dr. Kahn, thank you so much for being here, and welcome.

Marc J. Kahn, M.D., M.B.A., M.A.C.P., F.R.C.P., Dean, Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine; Vice President for Health Affairs, University of Nevada, Las Vegas:

Thank you, Madam Chair and members of the Assembly Committee. To keep things brief, we are short in every specialty across the board per capita for health care. Providing funding, state funding, for graduate medical education will allow us to increase the number of residents we can train which in turn will lead to an increased number of doctors in the state. I really thank everybody for their support. This bill will go a long way to improving health care in our state.

Chair Peters:

Thank you for the brief remarks. Are there questions from the Committee?

Assemblywoman Taylor:

Thank you for bringing the bill. Just a quick clarification. I know the fiscal note was removed, and there is no money request. Because this is the policy behind what the Governor has already put in his budget, which has already been approved, there is not going to be any money request from here.

Senator Pazina:

I had initially asked for \$17 million on this because \$8.5 million had already been put into the graduate medical education (GME) budget by the Governor. So that has already been approved—the \$8.5 million. This policy extends the account through four years instead of just two years so we can extend this to fellowship programs which have a larger ramp-up time, so I was hoping we could extend that to \$17 million. However, with uncertainty and so

many large requests, the \$8.5 million I had requested was rescinded from this. So, the fiscal note has been removed; the \$8.5 million has been removed, so there is no money request. This is the policy that goes behind including the deans in the decision-making process and including our experts in graduate medical education in the process, but you would not be approving any money here today nor would the Assembly Committee on Ways and Means be approving any fiscal note or budget for this bill.

Assemblywoman Taylor:

I understand you wanted to extend it to the fellowships but not right now, so, I get it.

Senator Pazina:

It still is a four-year ramp-up, so that \$8.5 million could still include fellowships over the four years. I will be working in the interim very hard to come back to this Committee with legislation next session to look at more funding for GME.

Assemblywoman Thomas:

Have matching dollars from the federal side of the house ever been considered?

Senator Pazina:

There are Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)-funded residencies—the federal residency dollars. However, sometime in the mid-1990s, and Dean Kahn can correct me if I am wrong, CMS dollars were frozen for residencies for graduate medical education. It was based on the state's population at that time, and Nevada's population was obviously quite a bit smaller in the mid-1990s than it is now. Those residency federal dollars tend to really aid a lot of states in the northeast that were a lot larger at the time as well as California and some of our neighbors to the west that were also larger. But it has not changed for Nevada. It has been stagnant, and you can imagine that other states do not want to give up those dollars or those funded slots to states like Nevada that could use them. That is why this bill has been brought forward, because we need more graduate medical education. I think Dean Kahn told me this statistic, so he can also correct me if I get it wrong, but when students graduate in Nevada, something like 50 percent of them may come back to practice. But if they do their graduate medical education in Nevada, more like 80 percent will stay in the state. That is what this policy aims to do.

Chair Peters:

Thank you. Are there any other questions from the Committee?

Assemblyman Nguyen:

I know that a lot of the boards that come through this body have issues with quorums and they always change the quorum needed, especially for advisory folks or folks who are so busy there is so much going on that they fail to show up to meetings. Do you have any concern that this body being created through this bill, with all these folks being appointed, that they will not show up because they are not getting compensated for it? There is no

mandate for them to show up. Are there concerns about business being conducted and things being done timely so once this body is established, it is not just sitting there, and no one can do anything about it?

Senator Pazina:

I can only speak for myself. When I was part of the Commission on Tourism, and now as a member of the Legislature, I have always showed up. Every commission/committee I have been a part of has always had a quorum. When this policy is signed into law—I am happy to say "when" because I like to be positive—and Dean Kahn becomes part of that advisory committee, he could probably speak better to that.

Dean Kahn:

Both Dean Paul Hauptmann at the University of Nevada, Reno and I feel very strongly that we are in a position to judge GME for the state and would very much like to be on the committee, so I can assure you we will be very active in those meetings.

Assemblyman Nguyen:

Dean Kahn, thank you for that answer, and Senator, thank you for the answer. I wanted to make sure. To let you know, I fully support this measure, this bill. I just want to ensure that we create a group of folks who are dedicated and going to show up, and it seems like this is a large group. Sometimes when you need a quorum, you can have problems getting one. I want to make sure we help you in terms of ensuring that all these busy folks know that, hey, this is a priority. If you want to be appointed to this board, show up. We have so many boards coming to this Committee asking to change the makeup of their quorum or makeup of their membership because often they do not have a quorum.

Senator Pazina:

When it came to the makeup of this, we really wanted to include the experts. That is why it is a little bit larger and includes the deans of the medical programs in the state as well as including representation from not just the larger counties like Clark and Washoe, but also some of the more rural areas as well. We wanted to be representative of the state with this.

Chair Peters:

I want to point out that several of the committees we had heard were having problems with local elected officials showing up to their meetings. I do not see any of those in this council, but be warned.

Are there other questions before we move on to testimony? Seeing none, we will move into testimony. We will start with support testimony in our physical locations and then move to the phones.

Connor Cain, representing HCA Healthcare:

On behalf of HCA, we are in very strong support.

Chris Bosse, Chief Government Relations Officer, Renown Health:

We appreciate the work of Senator Pazina on this important bill which will put into place the structure needed to expand GME in Nevada. We support S.B. 350 (R2).

Katie Roe Ryan, Director, Public Policy, Dignity Health-St. Rose Dominican:

Dignity Health-St. Rose Dominican is also here in support.

Constance J. Brooks, Vice President, Office of Government and Community Engagement, University of Nevada, Las Vegas:

We are in full support of this legislation. We also look forward to working with Senator Pazina over the interim to expand this program with more funding and more support, and I am certain that other Nevada System of Higher Education institutions would participate as well. We look forward to that collaborative effort.

Michael Flores, Vice President, Office of Government and Community Engagement, University of Nevada, Reno:

Ditto. I am hoping that our dean is on the line and he will be able to give testimony as well, but we wanted to be on the record that we are in support and want to thank the sponsor.

Alejandro Rodriguez, Director, Government Relations, Nevada System of Higher Education:

The Nevada System of Higher Education is in strong support of this bill and would like to thank Senator Pazina for bringing it forward.

Dan Musgrove, representing Valley Health System of Hospitals:

Currently, we have residency programs in internal medicine, family practice, general surgery, psychiatry, orthopedic, pulmonary, neurology, and emergency medicine and do not get any state dollars for those. It is a tremendous cost, and this would be a great a chance for us to expand even more. We completely support the bill, so thank you very much.

Blayne Osborn, President, Nevada Rural Hospital Partners:

We are happy to be here in support of Senate Bill 350 (2nd Reprint).

Dylan Keith, Assistant Director, Government Affairs, Vegas Chamber:

We were hoping for further funding with this bill, but we are thankful to Senator Pazina for bringing this bill forward. We look forward to continuing to work with her as well as with others to try and continue to fund this program as it should be.

Ashley Cruz, representing Touro University Nevada:

On behalf of Touro University and the future 180 doctors that they graduate every year, this is a critical piece of the puzzle that we need to continue to work through to ensure we are providing care to our Nevadans.

Barry Cole, Private Citizen, Reno, Nevada:

I am voluntary clinical faculty at the University of Nevada School of Medicine, Reno, Department of Psychiatry. I am very enthusiastic. We need fellowship opportunities. We have residencies but we need fellowship opportunities to go with the residencies. We believe that is one of the reasons our students are not staying in northern Nevada the way they are in southern Nevada so, hopefully, this is the right direction with S.B. 350 (R2).

Chair Peters:

Thank you. Seeing no one else coming to the table in Carson City and seeing no one at the table in Las Vegas, we will go to the phones. Is there anyone on the phone line for support testimony on S.B. 350 (R2)?

Paul J. Hauptmann, M.D., Dean, School of Medicine, University of Nevada, Reno:

I am calling in strong support of S.B. 350 (R2). Dr. Marc Kahn and I are working together to grow the physician supply in both northern and southern Nevada, and the best way to do it is through graduate medical education. As many of you know, data from the Office of Statewide Initiatives at the University of Nevada, Reno demonstrate that we would need nearly 2,500 physicians to match the U.S. median per 100,000 population. We appreciate Senator Pazina's efforts in this area. While we are hoping for new funding, we appreciate the fact that the two experienced deans of the two public medical schools in the state will help to decide how funding is set aside for GME. Thank you for your support.

Chair Peters:

Thank you for your testimony. Next caller, please. [There were no other callers.] We will move to opposition testimony in our physical locations. Is there anyone in Carson City or Las Vegas who would like to provide opposition testimony? Seeing no one coming to the tables, is there anyone on the phone line for opposition testimony? [There was no one.] We will move to neutral testimony. Is there anyone who would like to provide neutral testimony in Carson City or Las Vegas? Seeing no one coming to the tables, is there anyone on the public line for neutral testimony? [There was no one.]

I would invite the bill sponsor for closing remarks. Senator Pazina is waiving closing remarks. We will close the hearing on Senate Bill 350 (2nd Reprint), and we are going to open the work session on Senate Bill 350 (2nd Reprint). I have been given permission by Speaker Yeager to waive the rules requiring a 24-hour period between the hearing on a bill and the work session on that bill. Are there any questions from the Committee? Seeing none, I would take a motion to do pass Senate Bill 350 (2nd Reprint).

ASSEMBLYMAN NGUYEN MADE A MOTION TO DO PASS SENATE BILL 350 (2ND REPRINT).

ASSEMBLYWOMAN TAYLOR SECONDED THE MOTION.

Is there any discussion?

Assemblyman Hafen:

I wanted to disclose that my brother is an assistant professor of medicine for the UNLV medical school on a volunteer basis. There is no monetary impact to this bill nor his position, so I will be voting in this matter, but I did want to disclose that information.

Chair Peters:

Thank you so much. Is there any other discussion? [There was none.]

THE MOTION PASSED. (ASSEMBLYMAN GRAY WAS ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

We will move on to our last agenda item today, which is public comment. We will start in Carson City and Las Vegas. Is there anybody who would like to provide public comment today? Seeing no one coming to the tables in either location, is there anyone on the public line for public comment today? [There was no one.] We will close out public comment and will recess for now [at 4:01 p.m.].

[The Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m. on the floor of the Assembly.]

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Terry Horgan
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Assemblyman David Orentlicher, Vice Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBITS

[Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda.

[Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster.