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Office of the Governor

May 29, 2023

The Honorable Steve Yeager
Speaker of the Nevada State Assembly
Nevada Legislature
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Re: Assembly Bill 265 of the 82nd Legislative Session

Dear Speaker Yeager:

I am forwarding to you, for filing within the time limit set forth in the Nevada Constitution and without my approval, Assembly Bill 265 ("AB 265"), which is titled as follows:

AN ACT relating to mental health; adding certain members to the subcommittee on the mental health of children of the Commission on Behavioral Health; creating a statewide mental health consortium; prescribing the membership, powers and duties of the statewide mental health consortium; authorizing the statewide mental health consortium to request the drafting of not more than 1 legislative measure for each regular session of the Legislature; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

The intent of AB 265—to promote the mental health of children—is noble. The mental health of our children is, and should be, a priority for all of us. However, this bill includes an unfunded mandate on the Executive Branch. Last session, a nearly identical bill (Assembly Bill 273), included a fiscal note for one full-time employee and the related costs to do the work required under the provisions of the bill. In 2023, there were no fiscal notes submitted on the bill, nor were there any appropriations to fund the resources necessary to implement the provisions of this bill. It is inappropriate to ask over-worked State agencies to do more without providing additional funding to ensure existing employees do not simply have to absorb the work for "other duties as assigned".

Furthermore, AB 265 adds an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy to State government and increases the number of bill drafts submitted to the Legislature.

Since AB 265 does little to address the primary issue plaguing our mental health crisis—that we do not have enough beds to adequately serve those struggling with mental health issues—I cannot support it.

For these reasons, I veto this bill and return it to without my signature or approval.

Respectfully submitted,



JOE LOMBARDO
Governor of Nevada

Enclosure

Cc: The Honorable Stavros Anthony, President of the Senate (without enclosure)
The Honorable Nicole Cannizzaro, Senate Majority Leader (without enclosure)
The Honorable Francisco Aguilar, Secretary of State (without enclosure)
Brendan Bucy, Secretary of the Senate (without enclosure)
Susan Furlong, Chief Clerk of the Assembly (without enclosure)
Brenda Erdoes, Esq., Legislative Counsel (without enclosure)