

Annette Logan-Parker
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February 21, 2025

Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor
Attn: Elaine Marzola, Chair
Nevada State Legislature
401 S. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Submitted Electronically: AsmCL@asm.state.nv.us

RE: Support for AB163 – Expanding Mental Health Access

Dear Chair Marzola, Vice Chair Jauregui, and Members of the Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor,

On behalf of Cure 4 The Kids Foundation (C4K), we strongly support AB163, which authorizes Nevada to enter the Counseling Compact, an interstate agreement that allows licensed professional counselors from participating states to provide services in Nevada without requiring an additional license. This bill is a crucial step toward improving mental health access for Nevada residents.

As Nevada's leading provider of specialized care for children with cancer and rare diseases, C4K delivers essential life-saving services to pediatric patients facing the most serious medical challenges. The emotional and psychological toll on these children and their families is profound, making timely access to skilled mental health professionals an indispensable component of comprehensive care.

Currently, Nevada faces a severe shortage of mental health providers, forcing families to seek care out of state or experience long wait times. AB163 will alleviate these challenges by:

- Allowing telehealth expansion, ensuring that rural and underserved families in Nevada can access high-quality counseling without unnecessary travel expenses.
- Eliminating barriers for professional counselors, increasing the pool of qualified providers available to C4K's patients, families, and staff.

- Providing critical mental health support for healthcare providers, including C4K staff, who experience the emotional burden of caring for children with life-threatening illnesses.

Many other states that have joined the Counseling Compact have seen significant benefits, including increased availability of licensed mental health professionals, reduced waiting times for patients, and improved continuity of care through expanded telehealth options. States such as Arizona, Colorado, and Georgia have reported greater flexibility in meeting the mental health needs of their residents, particularly in rural and underserved areas. Nevada has the opportunity to follow these successful models and ensure that more residents receive timely and effective mental health care.

For these reasons, Cure 4 The Kids Foundation urges the Nevada Legislature to pass AB163 and make mental health services more accessible while strengthening Nevada's healthcare system. We appreciate your leadership and commitment to expanding access to essential mental health resources for our most vulnerable populations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Annette Logan-Parker".

Annette Logan-Parker
Founder, Chief Advocacy and Innovation Officer
Cure 4 The Kids Foundation