MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Eighty-third Session
February 19, 2025

The Senate Committee on Growth and Infrastructure was called to order by Chair Rochelle T. Nguyen at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, in Room 2144 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 5 of the Nevada Legislature Hearing Rooms, 7120 Amigo Street, Las Vegas, Nevada. Exhibit A is the agenda. Exhibit B is the attendance roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Rochelle T. Nguyen, Chair
Senator Julie Pazina, Vice Chair
Senator Fabian Doñate
Senator Ira Hansen
Senator Carrie Ann Buck

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Senator Michelee Cruz-Crawford, Senatorial District No. 1
Senator John C. Steinbeck, Senatorial District No. 18
Senator Robin L. Titus, Senatorial District No. 17

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Julianne King, Committee Policy Analyst
Michael Viets, Committee Counsel
Joseph Huene, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ryan McInerney, Deputy Chief of Staff, Nevada State University
DeRionne Pollard, President, Nevada State University
Alejandro Rodriguez, Nevada System of Higher Education
Leonardo Benavides, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Trevor Parrish, Vegas Chamber
Micheal Flores, University of Nevada, Reno

Kevin Osorio Hernandez, Student Body President, Nevada State University
Stephanie Flores, Vice-President of Public Relations, Nevada State University
Dawn Greening, Nevada State University Alumni
Reita Kubitz
Sean Sever, Deputy Administrator, Division of Research and Project Management, Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles
Leticia Delgado, Intern, Office of Senator Fabian Doñate
Caitlin Gatchalian, Chair, Asian American Pacific Islander Democratic Caucus
Noé Orosco, Make the Road Nevada
Ashley Kennedy, Principal Management Analyst, Clark County
Dora Martinez
Susan Priestman, President, American Physical Therapy Association-Nevada Chapter
Catherine Nielsen, Executive Director, Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services
Paul Klein, Nevada Physical Therapy Board
Matt Olivier, Advocacy Chair, Nevada Occupational Therapy Association
Julia Graham, President, Nevada Occupational Therapy Association
Nicole Lang

CHAIR NGUYEN:
I will open the hearing on Senate Bill (S.B.) 181.

SENATE BILL 181: Revises provisions relating to higher education. (BDR 43 - 787)

For committee members, I will let you know that this bill has provisions related to higher education and other education provisions. For this hearing, we are only addressing the license plate section. I intend to refer any education provisions back to the Education Committee.

SENATOR MICHELEE CRUZ-CRAWFORD (Senatorial District No. 1):
I am here on behalf of Nevada State University presenting S.B. 181. However, I have a much better presenter who will introduce himself and the bill.

RYAN MCINERNEY (Deputy Chief of Staff, Nevada State University):
This bill creates a special license plate for Nevada State University (NSU) to increase visibility for our school, support our forthcoming women's flag football and men's track and field athletics programs, and help fund necessary items for

students and faculty in need. Much of the language in this bill was modeled after last session's bill regarding the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) 150th anniversary license plate. The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has likewise concluded that there would be no fiscal impact. I know Sean Sever from the DMV is in the audience if you have any specific questions about the license plate program.

You'll see, in our presentation (Exhibit C contains copyrighted material. Original is available upon request from the Research Library.) the chosen design for our plate alongside a comparison of current special license plates from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), UNR, the Golden Knights, the Las Vegas Raiders, and the Ultimate Fighting Championship. As you'll see, our plate generally follows the designs of the other collegiate plates.

DeRionne Pollard (President, Nevada State University):
I will offer a few comments related to S.B. 181. During the last legislative session, Nevada State successfully changed its name from Nevada State College to Nevada State University—a name driven by our belief that the title University more accurately reflects who we are, how we deliver our programs, and how we uplift students and their families in our community. We seek a simple yet meaningful way for over 8,500 alumni as well as our students, faculty, and supporters to express their pride in Nevada's newest University—a privilege already enjoyed by Nevada's other two four-year public institutions.

Let me briefly give you reasons why showing support for NSU, and its efforts to address critical workforce needs, is more important now than ever. Nevada State has the largest nursing program in the State, producing nearly 50 percent of all BSNs in the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE). Last May, we graduated our first four-year cohort for our data science program. This fall, we welcome the inaugural cohort of our Education Specialist School of Psychology students, addressing our school's counselor shortage. We are in the early stages of developing nutrition and kinesiology programs to support Nevada's burgeoning sports industries.

Speaking of sports, the license plate would bolster Nevada State's brand-new athletics program, which has made significant strides in the past year. This is thanks to the passage of a student fee and generous donations from both the Las Vegas Raiders and the Golden Knights. With incredible support, we are

thrilled to finally bring women's flag football and men's track and field to the four-year level in Nevada.

As we develop our athletics program, a license plate reinforces our new University and spreads its name throughout the region. Additionally, the funds raised from this license plate will address basic needs and food insecurity, a growing challenge evidenced by record high usage of our on-campus food pantry. Nevada State is the most affordable four-year institution in Nevada; we offer more grants and scholarships than ever before, but every dollar counts when it comes to supporting our students and fulfilling our critical mission.

SENATOR CRUZ-CRAWFORD:
I wanted to share the reason why I decided to carry this bill. It is because many NSU students started at the elementary school I am the principal of, and we want to continue to wraparound resources. I consider NSU to be a Title I university, dealing with the same issues that I am dealing with. Bringing sports to a Title I community is different than bringing sports to a large institution. It is a community effort that brings families together and helps stabilize first-generation families.

ALEJANDRO RODRIGUEZ (Nevada System of Higher Education):
The Nevada System of Higher Education is in support of S.B. 181. We appreciate that this aligns with the Board of Regents' priority of addressing critical needs of food insecurity throughout our system and particularly at Nevada State.

LEONARDO BENAVIDES (University of Nevada, Las Vegas):
The University of Nevada, Las Vegas is in support of this bill and NSU.

TREVOR PARRISH (Vegas Chamber):
The Vegas Chamber is in support of S.B. 181, which allows NSU to have its own license plate design. As you may know, last session the Vegas Chamber supported the name change from Nevada State College to Nevada State University. The creation of this State license plate will allow alumni and supporters to demonstrate their love for NSU and other institutions like UNR and UNLV. The funds generated from these other license plates have gone on to support student scholarships.

MICHEAL FLORES (University of Nevada, Reno):
The University of Nevada, Reno is in strong support. We recently passed a bill last session for a license plate, and we have seen financial support for our students facing food insecurity. We are in full support.

KEVIN OSORIO HERNANDEZ (Student Body President, Nevada State University):
I have the honor of serving as the student body president of NSU for my second term. I am here today in strong support of S.B. 181 and this holds deep significance, not only for me but for the students I represent. An NSU license plate would provide our students with an added sense of identity and pride in our institution. And most importantly, the revenue generated would directly support the development of our athletics program, which our student government and the NSHE Board of Regents voted to support and implement.

Food insecurity was one of my top priorities last year and is currently my goal as student body president. These funds would go to support clothing, other school supplies and more. This would be an immense bill for pride and fostering a supportive environment for students of all backgrounds.

STEPHANIE FLORES (Vice-President of Public Relations, Nevada State University):
I am here today to voice my strong support for S.B. 181, which would establish an NSU license plate for our students. This is more than just a license plate; it is about representation and opportunity. Having a plate proudly displays our University's name and would give students, alumni, and supporters a way to showcase their pride in NSU.

More importantly, the funds generated from these plates would go directly to student life, from expanding our athletics programs to providing essential resources like food, clothing, and school supplies. These investments make a real difference in ensuring that every student has the support they need to succeed.

As a diverse and growing institution, NSU is committed to uplifting its students. Senate Bill 181 is an opportunity to reinforce that commitment and I urge the committee to support this bill for the benefit of current and future students.

DAWN GREENING (Nevada State University Alumni):
I am calling to voice my strong support for S.B. 181, the NSU license plate bill. As a smaller university in the State, NSU benefits greatly from school pride and

community recognition. More importantly, the funds generated from this initiative will directly support athletics programs and provide essential resources for students including food, clothing, and school supplies. I urge this committee to support S.B. 181 and help ensure NSU students have the resources they need to succeed.

REITA KUBITZ:
As a proud Nevadan, I wholeheartedly support S.B. 181 because it fosters a sense of community and equality. Although NSU is an important institution, it often gets overshadowed by larger and more established universities. These universities' alum and supporters can be represented by simply their license plates. Creating a special license plate that generates funds directly for NSU will help elevate its visibility, support its growth and enhance its accessibility. This initiative provides a unique way for residents, students and alumni to show their support while also helping to build the University's brand and expand its reach. In doing so, we can unite our community to support all local education and institutions, as well as opportunities ensuring that NSU not only survives but thrives for future generations. The more we raise awareness, the greater the potential for attracting students and support to NSU, which will help it stand out alongside the bigger universities.

SEAN SEVER (Deputy Administrator, Division of Research and Project Management, Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles):
The Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles is neutral on S.B. 181. I am happy to report that the way the bill is written, there is no fiscal impact to the DMV.

CHAIR NGUYEN:
At this time, I will close the hearing on S.B. 181, and we will move to S.B. 91.

SENATE BILL 91: Establishes provisions relating to the use of diacritical marks in certain governmental records. (BDR 40-43)

SENATOR FABIAN DOÑATE (Senatorial District No. 10):
Today I come before you to speak on S.B. 91, a bill that will honor the grammatical spelling of an individual's name when issuing or recording official documents. And today I am joined by my intern from UNLV, Leticia Delgado, to present (Exhibit D) on this policy. We will cover the bill language, the background, national trends and solutions relating to S.B. 91. I like my last name; it is ancestral. I like the tilde on the "N," and I want to be able to have it

on my license. That's what the bill does. I know there are questions about the historical context, and what other states are doing and I am going to have Leticia cover it.

LETICIA DELGADO (Intern, Office of Senator Fabian Doñate):
Senate Bill 91 is an act relating to governmental records. It requires records of the State registrar of vital statistics, county officers, and the DMV to include a diacritical mark used in a person's name. It requires identification cards (IDs) and driver authorization cards issued by the DMV to display a diacritical mark used in the full name of a legal person and other properly related matters.

I want to begin by contextualizing the usage of diacritical marks, especially in languages spoken by Nevadans, such as Spanish, Vietnamese, French, Amharic, Somali and Arabic. Diacritical marks are used to distinguish vowels, tone and other pronunciation features. Spanish, which is spoken by more than 600,000 Nevadans, applies diacritical marks to names such as González, José and even Doñate. However, despite individuals learning to write their names with accents and tildes, registered documents still don't capture the true spelling of names. Although some states don't have explicit mentions of diacritics in their legislation, states like California explicitly ban special characters because they are not a part of the English alphabet. Considering that the United States hosts a flurry of languages, such determinations are outdated. Cultural heritage should not be dishonored when having the technological ability to do otherwise.

Nevada is the fourth leading state in the number of Spanish speakers, but it has not considered a bill that requires diacritical marks. States like Texas, North Carolina, Hawaii and Alaska have long since allowed special characters to be used in their official documents. For example, in 2017, the Texas State Legislature introduced and passed H.B. 1823 which required diacritical marks to be recorded in state documents. The bill language in Texas prompts the Texas Department of Safety to ensure that when an original or renewal driver's license or a personal identification certificate is issued, it properly records any diacritical mark used in a person's name.

SENATOR DOÑATE:
That's the conclusion of our bill presentation. There are still moving parts and, just as a fair notice, we are working on a conceptual amendment. The

amendment has more technical changes, and won't change the concept of the bill, but will address how the bill is going to be implemented.
As Laticia mentioned, the biggest struggle that states like California face are explicit prohibitions on diacritical marks. Other states like Nevada don't have it as part of our laws and there's a gray area that exists.

The Social Security Administration currently does not allow for diacritical marks. States are looking at what happens if the state documents do not match. This is going to come in our bill amendment and ultimately as the federal government starts to make regulation changes, we should be equipped to be able to recognize individual's names. If my parents or myself passed away, we want our names to be recognized on our death certificates to have the mark based on our ancestral names.

CHAIR NGUYEN:
It sounds like you have some potential amendments that you are working on. I appreciate that this is in the third week of session and that people are still working on some of the language of the bills. But is that correct? Are there potential forthcoming amendments?

SENATOR DOÑATE:
That's correct. It is more on the implementation dates as to when certain provisions would take action. There's going to be much excitement for folks who are in Las Vegas who are getting married, and who want this reflected on their marriage certificates, but there might be some coordination as to what goes first.

Either the technological changes through the DMV, or marriage license certificates. Other types of state documents have to be aligned at the same point. All of it starts back at the DMV, and that’s when the amendment will come in.

SENATOR HANSEN:
Just a quick comment. I thought Senator "Donate" did a good job today.

CHAIR NGUYEN:
I'm sure he gets that a lot. I am also missing an accent on my name, so I appreciate that it changes the nature of how my name is pronounced and spelled.

CAITLIN GATCHALIAN (Chair, Asian American Pacific Islander Democratic Caucus):
I am here as the chair of the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Democratic Caucus to support S.B. 91. The AAPI caucus seeks to maximize the participation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders as a powerful force in the political process. Recognizing the rich heritage represented by the terms of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, we seek to strengthen and solidify our political participation and leverage that power to create lasting change for members of our community.

Naming our children and ourselves is a special and sacred process. Names carry deep cultural familial and personal significance. Parents carefully choose names to reflect their hopes, desired qualities, or a stronger connection to their lineage. In many Asian cultures, naming traditions are rich and meaningful. For example, in Chinese culture, a person may have three names, Ming, the name given by their parents, Ze, the name bestowed upon reaching adulthood and, Hao, a name they choose for themselves.

Over time, due to the influence of Western culture, many individuals have adopted English names to assimilate with navigating society and often struggle with pronunciation and recognizing non-Western names. This pattern is also seen among Korean, Vietnamese and Thai communities where individuals adopt English names to make interactions easier. This historical pattern of assimilation highlights why recognizing diacritical marks in government documents is so crucial. Diacritical marks are not just symbols, they are essential components of names that convey the correct pronunciation and meaning. Their inclusion provides several important benefits; one, preserving cultural identity; two, ensuring proper pronunciation; three, preventing bureaucratic errors; four, reducing discrimination and bias; five, improving access to services; six, aligning with international standards; and seven, enhancing data integrity.

The need for diacritical marks is clear; recognizing these marks is not just about linguistic precision, it is about respect, inclusion and ensuring that individuals are accurately represented in the system that governs their lives. Please support S.B. 91.

NOÉ OROSCO (Make the Road Nevada):
For the record, my name is Noé Orozco, spelled "N" "O" with an accent over the "E" and I am thankful for this bill. I am the government affairs manager for Make the Road Nevada, and we are in support of S.B. 91.

Critical marks, such as the accents, the tildes and the umlauts are not just ornamental, but they serve a linguistic function, changing the pronunciation and even the meaning of words. Growing up personally, whenever I would be writing written communications, I would put the accent mark if I had the ability. Constantly the written communications that were sent back would just say "No".

While growing up in school my name was mispronounced and distorted, and it was always "No". Not trying to challenge the educator or not to draw too much attention to yourself, you would conform to what was given to you such as "Noa", "Noe" or "No." As I got older, I decided that I did not want to do that and I wanted to reclaim my identity, my culture and my name. I started letting them know that my name is not, "No", it is not "Noe" it is "Noé" and there is an accent mark. In closing, names are more than just words used to identify an individual, and we urge you to support this bill.

MR. SEVER:
We are neutral on S.B. 91 and appreciate the bill sponsor reaching out to us. I did tell him that the DMV will have a large fiscal note attached to this bill. And it is specifically the cost for the DMV, as well as our vendor that produces our driver's license and ID cards. Our vendor estimated a cost of more than $200,000 for card production vendor changes. Our DMV department estimated almost $400,000, a very large fiscal note.

Changes to the DMV system will need to be made, which allows our mainframe to input and recognize the diacritical marks. We are currently in the middle of our DMV transformation effort and there's no way we can make the July 1, 2025 implementation date. There is a possibility that the DMV programming costs could be significantly lessened if the bill implementation date was pushed back to when the DMV determines sufficient resources are in place. We did that with several bills last session; however, the vendor costs would remain. I do look forward to working with the bill sponsor though on this bill.

CHAIR NGUYEN:
Regarding implementation, I realize that there's potentially a cost in recoding and re-identifying software. Is it possible to incorporate those changes as you are updating the software as part of the modernization efforts?

MR. SEVER:
Yes, with our transformation right now, we are working out of two information technology systems. One is an old Cobalt system and that is where a lot of these costs come from. The vendor costs are separate from that, but in our new system, that's where the hope comes when I say that we can absorb the cost if the implementation date is pushed back.

ASHLEY KENNEDY (Principal Management Analyst, Clark County):
For us, it was more about technical questions on how this would look from the perspective of our clerk, who does marriage licenses, and our coroner, who issues death certificates. We did have preliminary conversations with our vendor about adding this to our systems and we think with more time we are capable at a minimal cost. We need clarification on certain guidelines for the clerks about names matching on IDs. This is so that there's no confusion on how the marriage license should look for people getting married. And then we will work through any additional technicalities with the bill sponsor.

DORA MARTINEZ:
From the beginning of the session, I mispronounced the Senator's name "Donate" because my artificial intelligence said it, but I am glad I got it corrected. It is "Doñate" and it goes to prove that this is important, and it is a commonsense bill.

CHAIR NGUYEN:
At this time, I will close the hearing on S.B. 91, and I will open the hearing on S.B. 113.

SENATE BILL 113: Revises provisions relating to parking privileges for persons with disabilities. (BDR 43-660)

SENATOR JOHN C. STEINBECK (Senatorial District No. 18):
I am pleased to present S.B. 113 which addresses parking privileges for people with disabilities in our State. State law provides parking privileges for individuals with disabilities. However, the process of obtaining a special license plate, parking placard or parking sticker is limited to certification by a narrow range of medical professionals. These professionals include licensed physicians, physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses. This limitation creates unnecessary hurdles for individuals with disabilities who need these permits for daily mobility and accessibility.

Senate Bill 113 aims to expand access to parking privileges for people with disabilities by allowing occupational therapists and physical therapists to certify such disabilities. Broadening the scope of medical professionals who can certify applications for special license plates, placards and stickers increases the accessibility and streamlines the process for individuals requiring these accommodations. It is important to note that physical therapists are independent practitioners, and one can see a physical therapist without seeing a medical doctor beforehand to get service. Paul Young and Dr. Susan Priestman will provide you with additional background information and, after that, I would like to summarize the bill.

SUSAN PRIESTMAN (President, American Physical Therapy Association Nevada Chapter):
I have been a physical therapist for 40 years, 30 years in Nevada. I am the president of the American Physical Therapy Association of Nevada, a professional organization for physical therapists (PTs) and physical therapy assistants in Nevada. We work in a myriad of settings: hospitals, post-acute settings, long-term acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, rehabilitation hospitals, in-home health, emergency departments and outpatient settings.

Physical therapists are direct access practitioners who are trained at the doctorate level. We specialize in orthopedics, neurology, cardiopulmonary, pelvic health, wound care and sports medicine. These specialties reflect our broad knowledge regarding all types of disability. I am here to introduce S.B. 113, which would add PTs, and occupational therapists (OTs), to the list of providers eligible to certify patients to carry a disability placard. The passage of this bill would reduce patient burden and expense for patients who already are dealing with either a temporary or a permanent disability.

We see patients through the continuum of care as they recover from injury or a disease process. It simply makes sense for the PT or OT who is regularly addressing functional gain to assist with the completion of the disability placard form to get that patient functional in the community.

Here's an example of a common workflow of how this system doesn't work. A common workflow for a patient to receive a placard at present may involve booking an appointment with a physician to have them assess the patient's function and to assess the need for a placard. Often the physician will charge a fee to fill out the forms, or commonly, the physician will send the patient and

the form to a physical therapist to fill out. Since PTs or OTs are not eligible to sign the form at present, they must return the form to the physician to complete the final review and sign off. Then they get this form back to the patient so the patient may then file for the placard. This is not an efficient system, particularly for patients who are dealing with recent or permanent loss of function.

On November 15th, I joined a regulatory Physical Therapy Licensure Board meeting and discussed the association's intent to add PTs as eligible healthcare providers to determine disability for placards. The PT Board was supportive of this change, and I believe the Board has submitted public comment. By streamlining this process and adding PTs and OTs to the eligible list of practitioners, we can create efficiencies for patients. We would reduce unnecessary physician visits and the costs associated. And most importantly, we can reduce unnecessary stress and hardship for our patients that are facing either temporary or permanent disability.

SENATOR STEINBECK:
I would just like to summarize that this bill adds occupational therapists and physical therapists to the list of authorizers to issue a special license plate or special temporary placard. And that is the limit of the bill.

SENATOR DOÑATE:
Not a question but a recommendation, since we are opening the chapter. I work in primary care outside of the Legislature, and one of the complaints that I have from my physicians is that there's a lot of confusion with patients who need forms signed by their physician or by their provider, because they come and say, "This is the paperwork I need to get done."

If there is an amendment that could be floated, it'd be that the participant must certify this as a physician of the provider, but they can designate someone within their office to fill out the form and certify it. I think it is hard for providers to take someone in because you are taking only 15 minutes. That could be considered a regular appointment, do I bill you for that? Is that insurance fraud? This is because I am not seeing you for a general visit, how do I charge you for it? This would alleviate a lot of the concerns that patients have, because what we do not want is a scenario where we are charging patients 50 bucks to fill out the form.

This could be a question for legal; I know there are other provider types that other states do, such as optometrists and chiropractors. I don't know if they fall under the physician category that we have as a provider type. I am giving you this as an example; I don't know if legal would want to weigh in, but I know that they've expanded that in Minnesota.

SENATOR STEINBECK:
Thank you, Senator, we'd certainly like to meet with you to discuss some of this further.

SENATOR PAZINA:
I was curious if you know how many other states have in their statute where an occupational therapist or physical therapist can provide the application for the special license plate or permit?

MS. PRIESTMAN:
Currently 12 states allow physical therapists to certify disability placards. Last year, there were only nine, it is growing in momentum as sessions come into play.

CHAIR NGUYEN:
I want to clarify, I know that there was a member of the public, Steven Cohen, who had submitted a potential amendment to your bill (Exhibit E). Can you clarify whether this is an amendment that you are considering, or if it will be considered at this time, and is it a friendly amendment?

SENATOR STEINBECK:
I did read that amendment and appreciate the input, but at this time, we are not considering that language for this bill.

CATHERINE NIELSEN (Executive Director, Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services):
I am the executive director of the Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities. We are excited to see this bill come up this year, as we know that it is increasingly difficult for individuals with disabilities to get access to the services they need in the community, and we are excited to see the expanded list of available providers. We're hoping to see our legislative liaison, Mr. Cohen's, comments. We're hoping to see some expansion into applied behavior analysis therapy or autism-type services as those also qualify for the

placard. We know how expensive health care is and getting any provider to assist you is helpful.

PAUL KLEIN (Nevada Physical Therapy Board):
I am here on behalf of Nevada's Physical Therapy Board whose members support this bill, we have submitted a written support letter (Exhibit F).

SENATOR ROBIN L. TITUS (Senatorial District No. 17):
Although I am Senator Dr. Robin Titus, I am here in my capacity as a physician testifying in support of this bill. I was excited when I heard my colleague was bringing this bill forward.

I wanted to come here and give a little history of the process of signing these placards. When they became available and the law was originally written, it was only physicians who could sign them. As the healthcare provider arena has grown, it was clear to me in my second session that we needed to expand who could sign these. I would have to go home every night, after being here in Carson City, and go back to my office where I had a nurse practitioner and a physician's assistant covering for me and look at who they saw that day. If they agreed that the patient needed to have a placard, I would sign it off for them. I thought this was ridiculous, why aren't they signing this because they are the ones seeing this patient?

I was embarrassed that I didn't include physical therapists in that legislation at the time because I should have. As mentioned in testimony, they are independent practitioners and many of their patients do not see a physician, and who is better to sign these folks' placards than the professionals that are seeing them?

MATT OLIVIER (Advocacy Chair, Nevada Occupational Therapy Association):
I am an occupational therapist and the advocacy chair of the Nevada Occupational Therapy Association. As an OT and on behalf of Naturalistic Observation Diagnosis Assessment, there's a group of us here today in support of S.B. 113.

I would like to highlight that OTs routinely integrate physical, cognitive, mobility, sensory and psychosocial considerations when evaluating a person's abilities in our practice, including specific safety in community navigations, such as driving. This bill allows us to utilize expertise in a way that will increase ease,

access to patients, and decrease the administrative burden of over-tasked doctors of medicine and their offices.

Adding OTs and PTs to the eligible provider list will reduce unnecessary medical visits, streamline these processes, ensure qualified evaluation and improve accessibility for Nevada residents, including our rural frontier and underserved citizens.

JULIA GRAHAM (President, Nevada Occupational Therapy Association):
I come in strong support of S.B. 113 as this legislation aligns with the fundamental principles of occupational therapy by promoting health well-being and participation in life through engagement and occupation. Occupational therapy practitioners (OTPs) are uniquely qualified to address the diverse needs of individuals across the lifespan, supporting occupational engagement and performance. This bill aligns with the core values of our profession.

A crucial component of our work includes functional mobility, which is essential for individuals to move safely and effectively within their environments. The inclusion of OTPs and physical therapy practitioners ensures that individuals with mobility limitations receive timely and accurate evaluations from providers with specialized training. By recognizing the role of occupational therapy and physical therapy within the scope of S.B. 113, Nevada is advancing the ability of these professionals to address environmental and contextual factors and improve efficiency, accessibility and equitable access to care for our Nevada community.

NICOLE LANG:
I am a physical therapist as well as an educator of future physical therapists working in Las Vegas, Nevada. I would like to echo Ms. Priestman's comments in support of S.B. 113.

MR. SEVER:
We are neutral on S.B. 113. I am happy to report that there is no fiscal impact to the DMV the way the bill is currently written.

MS. MARTINEZ:
For the record, I am totally blind, and I do have a disability plaque, which is good for ten years. I heard from the sponsor of the bill that it would also be for people who are temporarily disabled. I was wondering, if one is temporarily

disabled, will the plaque say for how long the duration will be for that disability? I do appreciate the bill because when I went to get my disability plaque, I had to wait for three months for my primary doctor to sign off.

CHAIR NGUYEN:
I will call the bill sponsors and the presenters back to the table for any closing remarks. If you do have answers to the question that was proposed about whether or not this was temporary or permanent, I will let you go ahead and answer it.

SENATOR STEINBECK:
We'll defer to the DMV for that answer.

In closing, I believe that everybody who came up in support has made a very good case for this bill. This bill is simply to try to make life a little bit better for those who have been injured or hurt or have mobility challenges; and to reduce the cost and reduce the time involved in getting the placard and reduce the difficulties in life.

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CHAIR NGUYEN:
At this time, we will close the meeting on S.B. 113 and move to public comment. Hearing no public comments at this time, we will adjourn this meeting at 4:25 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

_____
Joseph Huene,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

_____
Senator Rochelle T. Nguyen, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	**Exhibit Letter**	**Introduced on Minute Report Page No.**	**Witness / Entity**	**Description**
	A	1		Agenda
	B	1		Attendance Roster
S.B. 181	C	3	Ryan McInerney / Nevada State University	Presentation
S.B. 91	D	6	Senator Fabian Doñate	Presentation
S.B. 113	E	14	Senator Nguyen on Behalf of Steven Cohen	Proposed Conceptual Amendment
S.B. 113	F	15	Paul Klein / Nevada Physical Therapy Board	Support Letter