



Nevada Academy of Physician Assistants  
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July 10, 2020

Honorable Governor Sisolak and members of the Nevada State Legislature:

The Nevada Academy of Physician Assistants (NAPA) has concerns about the proposed across-the-board cuts of 6 percent to Medicaid reimbursement rates in Assembly Bill 3.

First and foremost, NAPA understands the challenges facing our state as it addresses the economic fallout and subsequent budget shortfall created by the coronavirus pandemic. We know that sacrifices must be made and that the Legislature has difficult decisions to make. However, we are hopeful that whatever decisions are made minimize the impact on Nevada's most vulnerable citizens.

Presently, access to health care for Medicaid recipients is challenging because reimbursement rates aren't reflective of the cost of providing treatment, leading to a diminishing pool of providers willing to see Medicaid patients. Further reducing reimbursement rates as proposed will result in more providers deciding they can no longer see Medicaid patients.

In addition, it will change how Medicaid patients access health care – or whether they even choose to seek medical care. It will result in longer wait times and more expensive care options by utilizing emergency rooms for non-emergent care, for example. The burden that would be placed on safety net providers and facilities has the potential to overwhelm them.

Nevada is already at or near the bottom in terms of primary care providers per population, including physician assistants. Reducing access to that limited pool is an unintended consequence that could have significant consequences. Therefore, NAPA respectfully requests that whatever cuts to Medicaid reimbursement rates the Legislature agrees to make are temporary and should sunset at an agreed-upon date. Making permanent changes to a temporary problem is not in anybody's best interests.

In conclusion, on behalf of the 1,200 licensed physician assistants in Nevada, NAPA asks that the Legislature give the utmost consideration to protecting those vulnerable Nevadans most in need of assistance.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "B. Lauf", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Brian S. Lauf, DMSc, MPAS, PA-C, DFAAPA  
President  
Nevada Academy of Physician Assistants