



July 8, 2020

Dear esteemed Governor Sisolak and honorable members of the Nevada State Legislature:

The proposed across-the-board cuts of six percent to Medicaid reimbursement rates has raised concerns with the Nevada Advanced Practice Nurses Association (NAPNA), and how it will affect the state's more than 2,600 licensed Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs).

First and foremost, NAPNA 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.

As for the potential impact on APRNs, currently we do not have parity in Medicaid reimbursement rates and additional cuts would be devastating. Many APRNs will have to further cap the number of Medicaid patients they see because the cost of seeing a large Medicaid load exceeds the reimbursement amount.

Since APRNs were granted practice autonomy, many have their own businesses that include significant overhead similar to other providers. A reimbursement cut will ultimately affect the most vulnerable patient populations, will decrease access to care, increase wait times, and will increase utilization of more costly care such as ERs and urgent care.

Further, such rate cuts will increase the burden on safety net providers and facilities to fill access-to-care gaps and which has the potential to overwhelm them.

While we understand that ultimately sacrifices must be made in times a crisis, we may want to propose that if Medicaid rates are revalued, that a sunset timeline be assigned.

Making permanent changes to perhaps temporary problems would not be in anyone's best interest. If Medicaid rates are reduced without a sunset, it very well may take several sessions to get them back to an already reduced baseline for APRN's. Also, Nevada is trailing in numbers of primary care providers. Losing more providers of all types will be an unintended consequence.

In conclusion, NAPNA 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.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Cindy Pitlock', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Cindy Pitlock DNP, CNM, APRN  
President  
Nevada Advanced Practice Nurses Association