



NEVADA RURAL CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM

March 15, 2023

Assembly Committee on Labor and Commerce
AsmCL@asm.state.nv.us

To the Esteemed Members of the Committee:

I am writing this letter in support of AB108 on behalf of the Rural Children's Mental Health Consortium. The mission of The Consortium is to advance an integrated system in which youth and their families/caregivers with mental health needs are accepted in their communities, feel meaningfully connected to services and supports in the least restrictive environment, and experience equity in opportunities to access care.

Children's mental health has been adversely affected by the ongoing nursing shortage. As just one example a mental health facility in Reno that serviced children was recently closed due to staff shortages. By enacting the Nurse Compact Act healthcare employers will have more flexibility to hire temporary or permanent transfer nurses which The Consortium believes will improve healthcare for children.

Thank you for your consideration,

Melissa Washabaugh APRN, PMHNP-BC



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