



NEVADA RURAL CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH CONSORTIUM

December 15, 2022

Nevada Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services

AsmHHS@asm.state.nv.us

RE: Assembly Bill 9

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

The Rural Children's Mental Health Consortium would like to express our support for Assembly Bill 9. The functions of the Consortium are to assess the current behavioral health services for youth and develop plans that will identify gaps and areas in need of improvement. The Consortium is comprised of committed professionals, agency personnel, community representatives, parents, foster parents, youth, community business representatives, representatives from the Department of Education, and advocates who come together to support youth and families in Rural Nevada with behavioral health needs.

The Consortium believes that the changes addressed in Assembly Bill 9 will benefit Nevada's youth by increasing access to resources that benefit their health. Allowing the Regional Boards to operate at their full ability will serve as an important connection between those that need services and those who can provide them. Resource identification can be an especially difficult challenge in our rural areas so any improvement in the infrastructure of our mental health system can have a huge impact on outcomes.

Thank you so much for your consideration to help Nevada's rural youth.

Melissa Washabaugh MSN, APRN, PMHNP-BC
Chair – Rural Children's Mental Health Consortium