

From: [Kyril Plaskon](#)
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Subject: FW: Public Testimony
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From: Terence McAllister <trmcallister46@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 7, 2021 5:10 PM
To: DHHS DO NVpublicoption <NVpublicoption@dhhs.nv.gov>
Subject: Public Testimony

NV Dept of HHS Public Option Implementation Session #1

Wednesday, December 8:2:00 – 3:00pm

Thank you for the opportunity to address this committee.

My name is Dr. Terence McAllister. I am a Board-certified pediatrician and a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. I have been practicing in Las Vegas since early 2018. Prior to that, I was in private practice in Massachusetts for 10 years. I started my career caring for the children of active-duty service members as a Major in the US Air Force.

Research from the American Academy of Pediatrics has demonstrated that children with health insurance are more likely to succeed in school and in life. Children with insurance miss fewer school days, perform better in school, are more likely to graduate high school and go to college, earn higher wages and pay higher taxes as adults. (source <https://nevadaaap.org/advocacy>)

As a primary-care physician, I know how critical access to routine care is. Indeed, I've focused my life's work on it, and yet I also know that I practice in a state where a significant number of children do not have adequate insurance due to cost. The Children's Advocacy Alliance has given Nevada a failing grade for access to healthcare due in part to the high number of children without insurance. In 2019, Nevada ranked 45th in the nation for percentage of children without health insurance. (source: <https://www.caanv.org/see-what-we-are-doing/>)

There are lots of reasons why I love living and practicing in Nevada, from our wonderfully diverse population to our amazing parks and access to nature. One thing I struggle with, however, is knowing that not all children in Nevada have the same access to care me and my family enjoy. I struggle to see how excessive profits in my industry benefit me or anyone in our community. Healthcare is a public good and excessive profits for a few at the top harm our community's well being.

Under Nevada's public option, physicians will continue to negotiate reimbursement rates with health plans as they currently do, enabling me and my peers to continue our lifestyles. Participating health plans must pay providers rates that are comparable to or better than Medicare rates – which incidentally is higher than what Nevada Medicaid

pays pediatricians right now.

Although I don't practice in the rural areas of our state, I believe lawmakers, through Nevada's public option law, have provided critical support to financially strapped hospitals and physicians in rural areas that are more likely to care for patients on Medicaid, or who are uninsured, and often face low cash flows. The Nevada Public Option does not set, cap or limit physician or hospital reimbursement rates.

As a physician, I want to take a moment to thank Gov. Steve Sisolak for signing Senate Bill 420 into law, and SB420's lead sponsor, Senate Majority Leader Nicole Cannizzaro, for this landmark law that can transform and improve so many lives.

Our current system is not working for Nevada's children. I believe Nevada's new health care public option law will help reduce costs for children and their parents across the state. I believe the public option can help families save on premiums and out-of-pocket costs by leveraging Nevada's purchasing power to negotiate lower costs of care. And I believe that this new law will not significantly harm me or my family and our ability to earn a good living.