

**Joe Lombardo**  
*Governor*



**Richard Whitley**  
*Director*

# Patient Protection Commission (PPC)

Joseph Filippi, Executive Director, PPC

Presented to NOMHE Advisory Committee  
November 19, 2024



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**Department of Health and Human Services**

*Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.*



# Patient Protection Commission (PPC) Overview



# Commission Membership

- The Nevada Patient Protection Commission (PPC) is comprised of 12 voting members appointed by the Governor from across the health care spectrum, and includes **advocates, providers, and industry professionals dedicated to improving health care in Nevada.**
- Ex-Officio (Non-Voting) Members
  - Director, Department of Health and Human Services
  - Insurance Commissioner, Division of Insurance
  - Executive Director, Silver State Health Insurance Exchange
  - Executive Officer, Public Employees' Benefits Program



# Current Commission Members

1. Ms. Jalyn Behunin
  - Registered nurse at non-profit hospital
2. Dr. Bayo Curry-Winchell
  - Patient advocate
3. Ms. Wendy Simons
  - Patient advocate
4. Mr. Walter Davis
  - Patient advocate, those not covered by insurance policy
5. Ms. Floreine Kahn
  - General public
6. Dr. Ikram Khan (Chair)
  - For profit health care provider
7. Ms. Marilyn Kirkpatrick
  - Non-profit hospital in county with largest expense for indigent persons
8. Dr. Andria Peterson
  - Special needs patient advocate, with health care education and experience
9. Ms. Bethany Sexton
  - Private non-profit health insurer with highest percentage of insureds who are adversely impacted by social determinants of health

<https://ppc.nv.gov/Members/Members/>



# PPC Responsibilities

- Statutory Authority: [NRS 439.902-918](#)
- NRS 439.916
  - Broad authority to systematically review issues related to the health care needs of residents of this State and the **quality, accessibility and affordability of health care** statewide.
  - Provide recommendations to the Governor, the Legislature and other government entities to improve health care for all Nevadans.
- NRS 439.918
  - Collaborate and coordinate between existing state governmental entities working to improve health care in Nevada.
  - Use health data to establish priorities and ensure health data is publicly available and transparent.
  - Increase patient medical record access and interoperability.
  - Submit report with recommendations to address identified issues **every six months**.



# Governor's Executive Order



# Executive Order 2024-002

- **EO 2024-002** directs the PPC to make recommendations aimed at addressing the state's health care workforce shortage, so more patients have access to quality health care, statewide.

<https://gov.nv.gov/Newsroom/ExecOrders/2024/executive-order-2024-002/>



# Executive Order (continued)

The Executive Director of the PPC shall support commission members in reviewing available data and national best practices to develop recommendations for:

- (a) Attracting and retaining talent to address health-care workforce challenges in urban and rural communities;
- (b) Improving access to primary care and public health services;
- (c) Removing unnecessary state administrative hurdles to recruiting and retaining health-care workers;
- (d) Identifying sustainable funding strategies for strengthening the state's health-care workforce, which includes supporting competitive Medicaid reimbursements;
- (e) Ensuring recommended strategies for increasing provider reimbursement are based on payment methodologies that incentivize and reward for better quality and value for the taxpayer dollar; and
- (f) Identifying strategies for evaluating new and existing state investments in efforts to improve the capacity and size of the state's health-care workforce.





# Health Care Provider Rankings

Providers	Nevada	National	Nevada's Ranking
Rate of physicians per 100,000 population (2020)	218.5	272.0	45th
Rate of primary care physicians per 100,000 population (2020)	73.5	94.7	48th
Rate of registered nurses per 100,000 population (2023)	810.5	948.1	45th
Rate of licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses per 100,000 population (2023)	94.9	188.2	42nd
Rate of physicians in psychiatry per 100,000 population (2023)	2.2	7.4	44th
Percent of physicians who are specialists (2024)	50.3	52.5	32nd
Rate of physicians in general surgery per 100,000 population (2020)	5.7	7.7	49th
Rate of physicians in pediatrics per 100,000 population 17 years of age and younger (2021)	66.8	127.9	49th
Rate of physical therapists per 100,000 population (2023)	58.9	71.9	46th
Rate of dentists per 100,000 population (2023)	59.0	64.6	28th
Rate of mental health providers per 100,000 population (2023)	263.1	324.9	32nd
Rate of marriage and family therapists per 100,000 population (2023)	6.3	18.9	28th
Rate of child, family, and school social workers per 100,000 population (2023)	119.0	105.1	21st
Rate of geriatricians per 100,000 ages 65+ population (2021)	9.0	11.9	33rd
Rate of direct care workers per 100,000 population 65+ (2022)	3924.0	8118.0	49th



# Public Solicitation for Recommendations

- Health Care Workforce Recommendations Received
  - Increasing provider reimbursement rates
  - Expanding education and training programs
  - Improving access to care
  - Implementing interstate licensure compacts and reciprocity
  - Reducing administrative barriers for providers
- Provider Recommendations Regarding Nevada Medicaid
  - Increase provider reimbursement rates
  - Streamline the credentialing and onboarding process
  - Reduce the administrative barriers for providers



# PPC Workforce Recommendations

- Commission conducted a Work Session on October 18<sup>th</sup> and voted on initial health care workforce recommendations
- A few themes:
  - Increase diversity of health care provider workforce
  - Develop workforce incentives to recruit occupations in undersupply and target rural or underserved communities to improve access to care.
  - Support and strengthen health care career pipelines, expand training and educational opportunities, and engage with youth early about health care career opportunities.
  - Address existing provider burnout and support existing workforce through wellness resources
  - Streamline licensure and credentialing process
  - Reduce provider administrative barriers
- PPC Semi-Annual Report
  - Due Governor and Legislature 1/1/2025



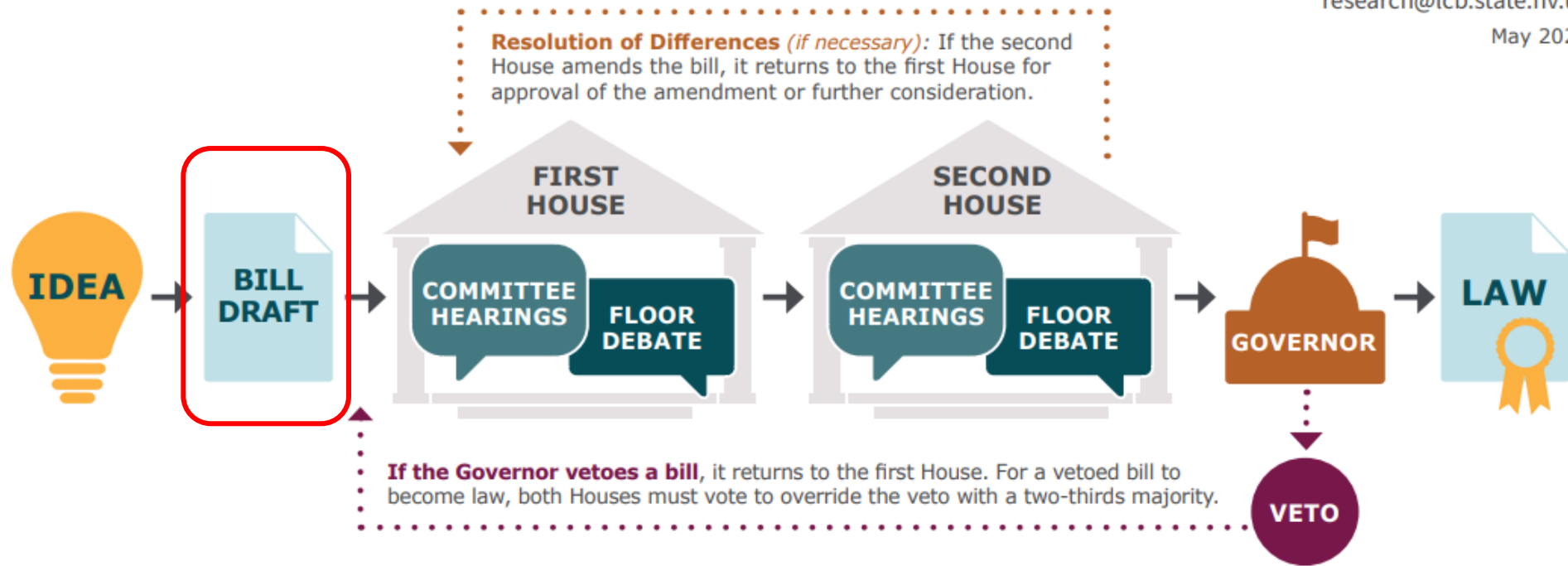
# Patient Protection Commission (PPC) Legislative Measures



# THE NEVADA LEGISLATIVE PROCESS: HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW



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May 2023



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# PPC Bills Enacted

## 2021

- [Senate Bill 5](#) makes changes relating to telehealth. (NRS 439.245)
  - DHHS established [Medicaid Telehealth Dashboard](#) to provide snapshot of telehealth services in Nevada.
- [Senate Bill 40](#) provides for the collection of certain data relating to health care. (NRS 439B.800-875)
  - Established the [All-Payer Claims Database \(APCD\)](#).

## 2023

- [Assembly Bill 7](#) makes changes regarding electronic health records.
  - Established an [Advisory Group](#) to advise the DHHS Director in the adoption of regulations to prescribe standards relating to electronic health records, health-related information, and health information exchanges. All providers required to implement interoperable EHR by Jan. 2030.



# 2025 PPC BDRs

## 1. (BDR 38-451)

- Establishes Health Care Workforce Fund within Nevada Medicaid.
- Improves the capacity and size of the state's health care workforce while increasing access to care for Medicaid recipients.

## 2. (BDR 38-450)

- Increase Medicaid reimbursement rates by 5% for physicians (and APRNs) to meet the health care needs of Nevadans.
- Additional 3% rate increase for rural services
- Additional 3% rate increase for physicians and APRNs who participate in value-based payment models
- Requires Medicaid to seek federal authority to establish value-based payment models that promote high quality and coordinated primary care.



# 2025 PPC BDRs (cont.)

## 3. (BDR 54-449)

Enacts multiple interstate licensure compacts:

Compact	Provider Type	National Rate (per 100,000 Residents)	Nevada Rate (per 100,000 Residents)	Nevada Ranking
Audiology and Speech Language Pathology Interstate Compact	Audiologists	4.2	2.5	49
	Speech Language Pathologists	59.3	30.2	50
Nurse Licensure Compact	Registered Nurses (RNs)	948.1	810.5	45
Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact	Occupational Therapists	43.2	38.2	35
Physical Therapy Licensure Compact	Physical Therapists	71.9	58.9	46
PA Licensure Compact	Physician Assistants	37.7	27.9	36





# Contact Information

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# Questions?



# Acronyms

- Assembly Bill (AB)
- All Payer Claims Database (APCD)
- Bill Draft Request (BDR)
- Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- Executive Order (EO)
- Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB)
- Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS)
- Patient Protection Commission (PPC)
- Senate Bill (SB)