

Nevada Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



Nevada Chapter AAP
8550 W Charleston Blvd
Ste 102-365
Las Vegas, NV 89117

NevadaAAP.org

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Leann D. McAllister, MBA
Cell: 508-685-0918

Public Comment to the Special Session of the Nevada Legislature Thursday, 9 July 2020

My name is Leann McAllister and I am the Executive Director of the Nevada Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Thank you for prioritizing the health and welfare of children in Nevada as you face economic and public health threats from the coronavirus pandemic. The Nevada AAP urges you to consider revenue-boosting measures that also improve public health. The American Academy of Pediatrics has long supported taxes on sugary drinks and tobacco products as these taxes both reduce harm and increase funding for other public health concerns.

One of our main concerns is the reduction in the already inadequate funding for vaccinations and other low-cost preventative care critical for avoiding future public health crises. Decades of research has demonstrated that increasing the generosity of Medicaid by itself is enough to improve access to care and the health of low-income populations.

The Nevada AAP currently has 277 members, most of whom are board-certified pediatricians, both primary and specialty care; members also include pediatric nurse practitioners, physician assistants, pediatric residents and medical students, all of whom live and work in Nevada and have dedicated their professional lives to the health of all children. My members are available to the Nevada Legislature to answer any questions you have about health policy that impacts children, adolescents, and young adults in Nevada.