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NevadaAAP.org

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The Nevada Chapter of
the American Academy of
Pediatrics is incorporated
in the state of Nevada.

Nevada Chapter

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



Public Comment to the
Meeting on the State Plan for Medicaid Services Fee Schedule Adjustments

Thursday, 13 August 2020

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

One of our top advocacy priorities is ensuring children have access to high-quality, affordable health care that meets their unique needs. Children make up 48 percent of Nevada residents covered by Medicaid and Nevada Check Up. This translates to more than 300,000 Nevada children, including 100 percent of children in foster care, and 47 percent of children with disabilities or special health care needs, all vying for the time and attention of the limited pool of healthcare providers in Nevada who, even now, are not adequately compensated for the work they do.

The proposed Medicaid fee reductions are not simply a pay cut for physicians, but rather a real threat to the viability of pediatric practices struggling to keep their doors open to patients seeking care. 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.

Moreover, Nevada will lose \$1.83 in federal matching funds for every \$1.00 in state money it cuts from its Medicaid budget. This is the wrong move for Nevada.

The Nevada AAP currently has 277 members, most of whom are board-certified pediatricians, both primary and specialty care; members also include pediatric dentists, 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.

We urge you not to reduce the Nevada Medicaid fee schedule and will continue to advocate for Medicaid/Medicare pay parity for pediatricians.