



Nevada Society of Addiction Medicine

A Chapter of American Society of Addiction Medicine

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June 12, 2025

The Honorable Joe Lombardo
Governor
State of Nevada
101 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: NVSAM's Support for SB 300, Makes Revisions Relating to Medicaid

Dear Governor Lombardo,

On behalf of the Nevada Society of Addiction Medicine (NVSAM), the leading medical specialty society representing physicians and other clinicians in Nevada who specialize in the treatment of addiction, thank you for your continued leadership in pushing back against the overdose epidemic. **We write today to express our strong support for SB 300.**

This important legislation would expand access to addiction treatment in our state. Notably, SB 300 would increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD). Additionally, the bill would allow federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) to bill for a broader range of services provided by behavioral health service professionals.

Medicaid is a crucial program for individuals with substance use disorder (SUD) and opioid use disorder (OUD). According to estimates, Medicaid is the largest payer for SUD and OUD treatment in the country, including MOUD.^{1 2} MOUD is the gold standard of treatment for addiction, proven to significantly improve outcomes for individuals with this condition, including prevention of overdose.³ However, cost often proves to be a significant barrier to individuals accessing the care that they need. As such, increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates for MOUD will incentivize increased access to care while improving our state's response to the overdose epidemic. As you are aware, Nevada is one of two states that continue to demonstrate increasing overdose deaths, while the overall rates for the US have shown an astounding 27% decrease.

Currently, Nevada is falling behind other states in ensuring that affordable MOUD is provided to residents. Indeed, Nevada is below average when compared to other states in the percentage of Medicaid recipients receiving MOUD.⁴ Specifically, Nevada is behind other neighboring states like Arizona, California, and Oregon in this metric.⁵ Increasing reimbursement rates for MOUD will increase the percentage of practitioners

offering MOUD to their patients and close that gap. As such, SB 300 will ensure that evidence-based treatment is more accessible to patients with addiction and save lives.

SB 300 is an important measure to close gaps in our treatment system and ensure that all Nevadans with addiction have access to the treatment that they need when they need it. **As such, we urge you to sign SB 300 into law to improve our state's response to the overdose epidemic.** Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maureen Strohm MD".

Maureen Strohm, MD, FAAFP, DFASAM
President, Nevada Society of Addiction Medicine

CC: The Honorable Senator Robin Titus, MD
The Honorable Assemblymember Rebecca Edgeworth, MD

¹ Frank, R. G. (2025). *The role of Medicaid in addressing the opioid epidemic*. The Brookings Institution. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/the-role-of-medicaid-in-addressing-the-opioid-epidemic/>

² Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission. (2015). Behavioral Health in the Medicaid Program—People, Use, and Expenditures. MACPAC. [https://www.macpac.gov/publication/behavioral-health-in-the-medicaid-program%E2%80%95people-use-and-expenditures/#:~:text=Behavioral%20Health%20in%20the%20Medicaid%20Program%E2%80%95People%2C%20Use%2C%20and%20Expenditures,Download%20Publication%20\(pdf&text=Medicaid%20is%20the%20single%20largest,behavioral%20health%20spending%20in%202009](https://www.macpac.gov/publication/behavioral-health-in-the-medicaid-program%E2%80%95people-use-and-expenditures/#:~:text=Behavioral%20Health%20in%20the%20Medicaid%20Program%E2%80%95People%2C%20Use%2C%20and%20Expenditures,Download%20Publication%20(pdf&text=Medicaid%20is%20the%20single%20largest,behavioral%20health%20spending%20in%202009)

³ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2024). *Substance Use Disorder Treatment Options*. SAMHSA. <https://www.samhsa.gov/>

⁴ Bajaj, S. (2023). "We fail people": New data on disparities in Medicaid access to opioid addiction treatment. STAT. <https://www.statnews.com/2023/06/23/opioid-addiction-treatment-access-2/>

⁵ Bajaj, S. (2023). "We fail people": New data on disparities in Medicaid access to opioid addiction treatment. STAT. <https://www.statnews.com/2023/06/23/opioid-addiction-treatment-access-2/>