



February 6, 2015

**Testimony before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy on Senate Bill 68**

*Prepared Statement of Victoria Carreón, Director of Education Policy, Kenny Guinn Center for Policy Priorities*

**SB 68 Provisions to Expedite Licensing Would Have Limited Impact**

1. Sections 1, 7, and 11: Create expedited endorsement procedures for medical doctors, osteopathic physicians, and podiatrists.
  - a. The proposed timeline is 15 days to provide notice of any additional information required.
  - b. For medical doctors and podiatrists, once an application is complete, the timeline to approve is 45 days.
  - c. For osteopathic physicians, once the application is complete, the timeline to approve is 45 days, or 10 days after receiving a completed background check, whichever is later.
2. Limitations of this proposal
  - a. Each profession already has provisions for endorsements, so it is not necessary to overlay a new statute. Instead, the existing statutes could be modified.
  - b. 30 days should be sufficient to review a completed application.
  - c. A provisional license can be issued prior to return of fingerprint results for osteopathic physicians.
  - d. Expedited procedures should apply to all professions.

**Recommendations to Streamline and Expedite Licensing**

1. **Exam Requirements:** Simplify requirements for licensed mental health professionals coming to Nevada by requiring only national exams and not State exams. The curriculum covered in State exams can be incorporated into continuing education requirements. Eliminate provisions that require applicants who have been licensed and practicing for several years to take a new national exam.
2. **Years of Practice Requirements:** Eliminate provisions that require mental health professionals coming to Nevada to have been licensed for a minimum number of years in another state.
3. **Training Requirements:** Accept training requirements of other states in mental health professions that have substantially the same scope of practice and education requirements.



## Legislative Testimony

## Senate Bill 68: Provisions Governing Professions

4. **Fingerprinting:** Create uniform procedures for administering fingerprinting and allow provisional or full licenses to be granted before receipt of fingerprint results. Improve DPS review times.
5. **Temporary Licenses:** Require each mental health licensing board to offer a temporary or provisional license to professionals who are licensed in other states and are in good standing so they can begin practicing before they meet all Nevada requirements.
6. **Timelines:** Create a uniform 30-day timeline to consider applications from mental health professionals licensed in other states.
7. **Interstate Compacts:** Consider joining interstate compacts in medicine, nursing, and psychology to improve recruitment from other states, which could facilitate the use of telehealth to help meet needs in underserved areas.

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See full report: *Nevada's Mental Health Workforce: Shortages and Opportunities*  
<http://guinncenter.org/publications/policy-reports/#SustainingNevada>

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