



RORY REID
Chairman

Board of County Commissioners

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October 19, 2007

The Honorable Jim Gibbons
Office of the Governor
101 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Governor Gibbons;

As you know, Clark County and the State of Nevada have a long-standing fiscal partnership that provides essential services to some of our most vulnerable citizens. Child welfare, indigent medical care, and juvenile justice services are all functions that rely on an ongoing fiscal partnership with the State of Nevada to carry out federally mandated services to citizens at a time when they are most in need.

In response to your recent call for proposed state budget cuts, the Department of Health and Human Services contacted several of our department directors to request that Clark County propose a plan to cut child welfare services and juvenile justice services by a combined \$3.6 million over the current biennium. I also understand that while the Chief Executive Officer of the University Medical Center of Southern Nevada (UMC) has not yet been contacted about the proposed budget cuts, the Department of Health and Human Services is considering a number of cuts in Medicaid rates and eligibility that would severely impact our service provision to indigent and uninsured patients.

The State of Nevada has historically under-funded services to our most vulnerable citizens, including youth involved in the child welfare or juvenile justice system and indigent and uninsured patients seeking medical care. These systems cannot afford further reductions in funding.

Clark County will not comply with requests to provide proposed budget cuts for child welfare, juvenile justice, or indigent medical care. My fear is that any response would imply that such cuts are necessary or acceptable. While Clark County is more than willing to participate in a dialogue with you and legislative leaders about the future of these programs, we believe strongly that they should be one of the last programs to be cut rather than the first.

Respectfully Submitted,

RORY REID,
Chairman

cc: Virginia Valentine, County Manager
Mike Willden, Department of Health and Human Services
Joan Ohl, Administration for Children and Families
Senator William Raggio
Speaker Barbara Buckley