



Hello NPA!

The 80th Session of the Nevada Legislature has come to a close. It was a record-breaking session for Nevada and for NPA. I cannot possibly cover everything Nevada and NPA accomplished in a single, readable email. So, below you will find a very brief summary of the session “by the numbers”.

A lot happened during the session, and behavioral/mental health issues featured prominently. For the most part, the goal of legislation impacting behavioral/mental health was to address Nevada’s mental healthcare crisis by increasing access to care. Legislation which would limit patient access to care and/or threatened psychologist practice was successfully stopped or amended (with the notable exception of AB 285 and Third Party Observations).

1st Ever: Nevada is home to our nation’s first female-majority legislature; first female-majority high court, and first African-American Attorney General

1,102 Bills Introduced: And, the NPA Legislative Team read, at minimum, a detailed summary of every single bill; these bills included an historic number of bills related to behavioral/mental health

100+ Detailed Review Bills: Directly and indirectly related to behavioral/mental healthcare and/or psychologists underwent detailed review by at least two members of the NPA Legislative Team

70 Monitored Bills (up from just 33 in 2017): Directly impacting behavioral/mental healthcare and/or psychologists were closely monitored by the NPA Legislative Team

39 Action Bills (up from just 14 in 2017): NPA Legislative Team took action in response to these bills

NPA Legislative Action Matters: NPA advocacy during the legislative session impacted the everyday work of psychologists. A **short** list of accomplishments include:

- NPA supported increasing access to treatment for those with severe mental illness while successfully protecting **psychological testing** within psychologists' scope of practice (SB 37)
- NPA supported revisions to the Legal 2000 process to **ensure access to care** while **protecting patient rights** (AB 85)
- NPA successfully prevented threats to ban pre-employment **screening conducted by psychologists** (AB 132)
- NPA supported increased accountability and **patient protections for health insurance** (AB 170)

- NPA supported establishment of the Nevada Interagency Advisory Council on **Homelessness to Housing** and worked to ensure that psychologists will be “at the table” (AB 174)
- NPA helped initiate legislation to address **psychologists' paneling issues** - now insurers must provide reasons for panel denial to the provider and the Division of Insurance for annual aggregate reporting (SB 234)
- NPA lead the opposition and helped defeat legislation that would have required **informed consent of all legal guardians** prior to the provision of any type of behavioral (not medical) services to a minor (SB 247)
- NPA navigated the complex legislative space surrounding **Third Party Observation** of independent medical evaluations (IME), and will continue to closely follow the issue (AB 285)
- NPA supported the establishment of a Task Force to examine the **relinquishment of children** into protective care due to unmet (behavioral) healthcare needs (AB 387)
- NPA advocated for and supported the creation of the **Patient Protection Commission** (SB 544)

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