

Chairman Bennett called the meeting of the Assembly Committee on Health and Welfare to order at 5:00 p.m. with the following members and guests present:

PRESENT: Chairman Bennett  
Vice Chairman Chaney (arrived late)  
Mr. Bergevin  
Mrs. Ham  
Mr. Mello  
Mr. Nicholas (arrived late)  
Mr. Thompson

Please see attached guest register for guests present.

A.B. 444 - Regulates practice of naturopathic medicine.

Mr. Bennett turned the floor over to Mr. Mello and requested that he serve as Acting Chairman on this bill. Mr. Bennett then moved a "DO PASS" on AB 444, seconded by Mr. Bergevin and carried by a vote of 4 to 1 with two absent from the vote. Voting aye were: Messrs. Bennett, Bergevin, Mello, and Thompson; voting nay was Mrs. Ham and absent/not voting were Messrs. Chaney and Nicholas.

A.B. 441 - Makes various changes in law relating to cosmetology.

Chairman Bennett introduced Mrs. Gladys Smith who has worked in the field of cosmetology in Las Vegas for many years and wished to address the committee members on this measure.

Mrs. Smith advised those present that she was speaking in behalf of many cosmetologists who are all opposed to Section 13, contained in this bill which calls for 16 hours of continuing education each two years. She explained that most beauty operators have been in the business, like herself, for many years and in order to keep familiar with new techniques and procedures, they attend beauty seminars and shows all around the country. This, in their opinion, should be sufficient to keep abreast of the methods applied in their trade without being required to go back to beauty school periodically.

Mr. Bergevin asked if she would be in favor of that provision if they include employment history as part of that continuing education and was advised in the affirmative, however, Mrs. Smith emphasized that most beauticians take advantage of as much on-the-job training as possible without legislative action.

Testifying in opposition next was Ms. Paulette Gochie who is a beauty salon owner in Carson City. She concurred with the comments

made by Mrs. Smith and added that most shops have classes two or three times per month in order to keep their staff familiar with new products. She explained that the sales representatives from the different manufacturers provide a great deal of training while representing their products and she feels this is sufficient in most cases. She pointed out that there are numerous operators in this field and she knows they would concur with her remarks.

Mr. Mello suggested that perhaps the committee could defer action at this meeting and give the people involved an opportunity to research the bill and find out why it was requested by the Board of Cosmetologists. An additional hearing could be held in order to hear further testimony, but he felt it was essential to find out why it had been requested as perhaps there is some type of deficiency in the profession that we are not being made aware of.

Chairman Bennett concurred in that suggestion and deferred action on the bill until next meeting.

S.C.R. 26 - Requests University of Nevada to assist in improving health services in rural areas.

Speaking in support of this resolution was Myrl Nygren, from Health Planning and Resources. She stated their office provides staff support to the State Health Coordinating Counsel and that counsel has established a rural health coordinating committee to address the concerns of the rural health problems in the rural areas. That committee is comprised of members of the Schick Counsel and representatives of the health care professional association such as the Medical Association, the Nursing Association and the Hospital Association. The Schick Counsel serves in an advisory capacity on health matters and feels that it would serve a good role to serve as advisory to the medical school and advise them in matters of rural health, which their committees are dealing with as part of its responsibilities. She supports this resolution and the utilization of the State Health Coordinating Counsel to serve as advisory to the University School of Medicine, particularly in rural health matters.

Testifying next in support of the bill was Mr. Mike Madden, Administrator of the hospital in Fallon, Nevada and also President of the Nevada Hospital Association for this year. He is aware of the controversy surrounding the medical school at the university with the legislature and possible funding cuts and the representatives from the rural communities haven't been too happy with the direction it has taken. However, they are enthusiastic about what is happening now with the current administration. They feel that when the initial legislation creating the medical school was passed, there was a definite intent by the

legislature that rural health care needs of Nevada should be one of the primary aims of the medical school. They are anxious to see that there is some continuity and feel that by passage of this resolution it will keep these aims in the minds of future administrations. The needs of rural Nevada are not going to be resolved in just a few short years.

Dr. DeWitt Baldwin, Assistant Dean for Rural Health, School of Medicine spoke next and read into the record the comments on the attached EXHIBIT I.

Mr. Mello pointed out that according to his information, there is a proposed 25% cut in the Medical School budget this time and asked if that would have any bearing on the rural community program. Dr. Baldwin stated he did not feel it would. The new dean is committed to rural health and the first question he asked on campus was, "Why isn't rural health in the center of this school instead on the periphery?" Dr. Baldwin feels certain the new dean is supportive of this idea. He then submitted for the record a written statement by Mr. Calvert Lyon, Chairman, Moapa Valley Health Services in Overton, Nevada support this measure as well. EXHIBIT II.

Mr. Rick Pugh, Executive Director of the State Medical Association, rose in support of this resolution. He stated the Rural Health Coordinating Counsel has been meeting for several years now and their members wholeheartedly support the resolution and feel it will go a long way to zero in on the problems by having one agency working towards a solution.

Mr. Mello reminded the committee that he was the introducer of a resolution to establish the four-year medical school in Nevada and in his opinion, this is one of the most important areas in the school, that is, to provide services for the rural areas. That is one of the primary reasons he was in favor of the medical school, to see that the rural areas had assistance in placing doctors that are badly needed there.

Ms. Mary Lee Smith, Vice-President of the Greater Nevada Health System Agency, concurred with the comments for favorable action. She explained that Bob Dowdy, the new Dean of Medicine is also a member of the Health Systems Agency. She feels he is aware of this measure and would offer his support.

There being no further testimony to be heard, Mr. Mello introduced a motion for a DO PASS, seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried unanimously with Messrs. Bergèvin and Nicholas being absent from the vote.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Nikki Kinsley*  
Nikki Kinsley, Committee Secretary

Testimony Before the Assembly Health and Welfare Committee  
May 6, 1981  
by DeWitt C. Baldwin, Jr., M.D.  
Assistant Dean for Rural Health, School of Medicine

I was at these legislative hearings in 1977 and 1979 when you made it clear that the school should become more involved with the problems of rural health care in Nevada. In response to that mandate, I was appointed to my position as Assistant Dean for Rural Health and Director of the Office of Rural Health.

Since then I have been working full time to secure and establish funding for the Office of Rural Health and to carry out a broad program of technical assistance to the rural communities of Nevada. I and my associate, Beverley Rowley, have traveled to nearly every community in the state and have met with nearly every rural practitioner, commissioner, legislator, hospital board member and administrator. We have concerned ourselves with a broad range of problems, from recruitment of physicians and other health providers to planning and financing of health services.

We have the following accomplishments to report:

1. The School of Medicine has sought and received funding to support the Office of Rural Health and its programs from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This office is staffed by two professional and two classified personnel.
2. Over 40 rural physicians have been given faculty appointments at the School of Medicine and regularly serve on its committees. (Seven of these are former UNR medical students.)
3. Over 260 graduates of the School of Medicine have been contacted regarding practice opportunities in rural Nevada. Unfortunately, most are still in training or discharging service obligations.
4. School of Medicine graduates have, or will shortly be establishing practices in Ely, Pioche, Panaca, Caliente, Yerington, Fernley, Schurz, Boulder City, Winnemucca, Gardnerville, and Gerlach-Empire (from a practice in Doyle, California).
5. A total of 84 UNR medical students have spent required one-month preceptorships in 14 different rural communities.
6. Resident physicians in training at UNR have served in rural communities with physician shortages. During the current year, two Family Practice residents, Drs. Stouder and Hilbish have spent a total of three months in the rural communities of Winnemucca and Yerington.

*DeWitt C. Baldwin, Jr.*

7. Several faculty members in the Department of Family Medicine have covered rural practices during physician illnesses and absences.
8. Three state-wide conferences on rural health problems have been co-sponsored with other agencies. More than 600 Nevadans have participated.
9. Two advanced trauma workshops in Hawthorne and Winnemucca have been attended by 9 rural physicians and 40 allied health personnel.
10. Ten economic marketing studies have been completed in rural catchment areas of the state to determine the need and ability of these areas to support physicians and other personnel, as well as to assist these areas to plan for improved health services.
11. A study of rural hospital nursing needs has been completed.
12. Over 75 nursing programs in California have been contacted to recruit nurses for our rural hospitals.
13. Nearly 20 Doctors of Osteopathy (D.O.'s) interested in practicing in Nevada have been contacted.
14. Several communities have been assisted in planning and preparation of funding proposals for improved health services.
15. Physician services to remote communities, such as Gerlach, McDermitt, Jackpot, Wells, Round Mountain, Goldfield, Silver Peak and Fish Lake Valley, have been financially assisted.
16. The Office of Rural Health has become a statewide clearing house for health manpower information, as well as for assisting rural physicians and hospitals to obtain relief coverage.

Finally:

17. From 1971 to 1980, a total of 56 students from the rural counties of Nevada were admitted to the School of Medicine. This is approximately 10% of the school's total admissions. Proportionately more rural applicants have been admitted than from Washoe and Clark counties.

Statement to Assembly Health and Welfare Committee, May 6, 1981  
by Calvert Lyon

Chairman, Moapa Valley Health Services, Overton, Nevada

I am Calvert Lyon. I reside in Overton in the Moapa Valley area of Clark County. My occupation is president and general manager of the Moapa Valley Telephone Company. For the past 14 years, I have been actively involved as a member of the town council trying to improve the level of health care available in our community. This has included the recruitment of physicians and efforts to increase the facilities and diagnostic equipment for medical practice. It has been a slow and mostly frustrating process, with much heartache and disappointment. Nearly one year ago, in an effort to help ourselves, the community formed a non-profit corporation, the Moapa Valley Health Services, Inc. to provide a local organizational structure to collect the resources and direct the efforts to upgrade all levels of health care in the community. I am currently serving as the president of this corporation.

During the process of incorporating and developing our plans, I have been directly involved with Dr. Baldwin and Beverley Rowley of the Office of Rural Health of the School of Medicine at the University of Nevada, Reno. They have visited us in Overton and met with Clark County officials on our behalf. I have also met with people from other rural areas within Clark County and elsewhere in Nevada and found a commonality of problems regarding the lack of available health care in our areas as well as the large distances to obtain the needed care. Physician recruitment and retention, along with other skilled help and health care personnel, is a common problem. We have found an ally and friend in the Office of Rural Health at the Medical School - someone who is directly interested in our problems, but more important, has been willing to work with us in solving these problems.

When the Legislature created the Medical School and gave it the charge to provide for the medical needs of rural Nevada, it

*Calvert Lyon II*

provided a positive ray of hope for those of us in rural Nevada. We hope that in time physicians and other health personnel will be trained and have the motivation to practice in the small towns and rural environments of Nevada. The University's educational program for placing students in rural communities while they are in school exposes these students to the opportunities and educational requirements necessary to provide the proper health care in this limited resource environment. With the potential impact of the proposed MX program on the health care needs of our community and many of the other small towns in Nevada, it is important, in fact, crucial, that the education process be geared toward providing the proper health care in these isolated rural communities. The consultation, technical assistance and encouragement provided by the Office of Rural Health to groups such as ours is essential and vital to our attempts to achieve our goal. No other state agency has had such a direct and supportive concern for the health care needs of these sparsely populated areas.

I have traveled here today because of my personal commitment to work for the improvement of my hometown and community and my personal support for the Office of Rural Health. Health care is a number one priority to my friends and neighbors. I ask the Legislature to continue to press for a solution to the health care needs of rural Nevada and to provide the support necessary to the Medical School and the Office of Rural Health. Thank you for your time.

ASSEMBLY

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE ON Health and Welfare

Date Wed May 6, 1981 Time 5:00 pm Room 316

Bills or Resolutions  
to be considered

Subject

Counsel  
requested\*

- | Bills or Resolutions<br>to be considered | Subject  | Counsel<br>requested* |
|--|--|-----------------------|
| A.B. 441-                                | Makes various changes in law relating to cosmetology.                                |                       |
| S.C.R. 26-                               | Requests University of Nevada to assist in improving health services in rural areas. |                       |





