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TESTIMONY

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Good Afternoon, Chairman Koivisto and members of the Health and Human Services Committee. I am Charles Duarte, Administrator of the State of Nevada Division of Health Care Financing & Policy.

I am here today to provide testimony regarding Assembly Bill 384, which establishes certain policies for the coverage of pharmaceuticals under Nevada Medicaid fee-for-service program.

Throughout previous testimony the Division has committed to administer the Medicaid fee-for-service program and simultaneously meet the intent of our Executive Budget, through the establishment of administrative Medicaid policies and procedures that have a clinical foundation. The Division has committed (please see the attached letter to Senator Rawson) to use the professional expertise of a Pharmacy & Therapeutic (P&T) committee to advise Medicaid on the clinical basis of the establishment of the Preferred Drug List (PDL) and Maximum Allowable Cost schedule. Medicaid also proposes the P&T committee exempt the following classes from the PDL: Anti-retroviral (used to treat hemophilia), Atypical and typical antipsychotic medications, Anti-diabetic (used to treat diabetes) and Anti-seizure medications and any other classes the P&T committee recommends.

Furthermore, the Department has committed to use the clinical expertise of the Drug Utilization Review Board for the establishment of step-therapy and prior authorization criteria.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding Assembly Bill 384. I would be pleased to answer any questions the committee may have.