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SCAR B. GOODMAN MAYOR

State Senator Dina Titus Minority Floor Leader Nevada State Legislature Carson City, Nevada

Re: Support for Senate Bill 156

Dear Senator Titus:

I am offering my strong support for your Senate Bill 156. This legislation will allow the City of Las Vegas to obtain a "center of excellence" in a critical area of health care that does not exist at the present time. It would be of great interest to the City of Las Vegas to develop a specialized clinical and research hospital in the areas of spine and pain.

The neurosurgeons behind the development of this hospital (Western Regional Center for Spine and Brain Surgery) are long-term Las Vegas residents. They are committed to the further enhancement of medical excellence in our community. I am convinced that if SB 156 passes, we will begin to attract patients from throughout the United States to Las Vegas for healthcare treatment and research and, it will begin to stop the out-migration of some patients from Las Vegas for specialty care.

I also believe that the research arm of this hospital will attract other health care companies to relocate to Las Vegas. I understand that the Nevada Development Authority has been looking for such an "anchor" hospital entity to attract such firms.

We are very optimistic that this specialty hospital will be built in the downtown redevelopment area of Las Vegas. It would be our first such health care "center of excellence" to commit to this vital section of town. Finally, this hospital would be built with private funds and owned primarily by surgeons and physician who live in Las Vegas. Thus, any revenues would be collected by Las Vegans and spent by Las Vegans. This project is also one model that can begin to address the malpractice crisis in Nevada as it allows key surgeons to better control their future.

In every Western State except Nevada, we would not have to submit a Bill to the legislature to build this hospital. I applaud your foresight in trying to bring this health care center to our citizens of Las Vegas. Please let me know how I can assist you in your efforts.

Sincerely,

Oscar Goodman

Mayor

City of Las Vegas

CITY OF LAS VEGAS 400 STEWART AVENUE .AS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101

VOICE 702.229.6241
FAX 702.385.7960
TDD 702.386.9108
MAIL ogoodman@ci.las-vegas.nv.us
WEBSITE www.ci.las-vegas.nv.us