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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE AND
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
MIKE O'CALLAGHAN FEDERAL HOSPITAL
NELLIS AIR FORCE BASE, NEVADA

18 Mar 03

Senator Ann
O'Connell 401 North
Carson Street Carson
City, Nevada 89401

Dear Senator O'Connell:

I am writing to you in an urgent call seeking your help. I am currently an active duty Major in the US Air Force, serving as Chief of OB/GYN and Women's Health Care Services at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nevada. I am Board Certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. I reside in Henderson, Nevada.

I currently hold a medical license for the state of Pennsylvania. I am literally holding a contract in my hand to join an OB/GYN practice in Las Vegas beginning this summer. When I called the Nevada Board of Medicine to apply for a medical license in Nevada, **I was told that I could not obtain a Nevada medical license.** The reasoning is as follows:

According to Nevada Administrative Code 630.080, Section 4 (a), applicants must "complete 1 year of postgraduate training before taking Step III of the United States Medical Licensing Examination."

I passed Step III of the USMLE on 5 Dec 95. I graduated from the University of Miami School of Medicine on 12 May 95.

The issue is this: **The usual and expected progression for physicians is to take Step III of the USMLE during the internship (or first postgraduate) year after medical school, not to take the examination after the first Postgraduate Year.**

Because of the NAC cited above, I was told that I could not apply for a license in Nevada, as I did not take the test after completing my first postgraduate year of training. **Not only did I pass the examination 7 months after finishing medical school, I also completed FOUR years of postgraduate training in OB/GYN at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia.** Furthermore, I served as Chief Administrative Resident during

my 4th year of training. And I am also an officer in the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, serving as the Junior Fellow District Chair of the Armed Forces District.

I am asking for your help in an urgent fashion – If I am unable to obtain a Nevada license, I will be forced to leave the state. I am sure you are well aware of the shortage of Ob/GYN physicians in Clark County. The language of NAC 630.080 is not realistic, and I fear it will prevent other competent physicians from obtaining medical licensure in Nevada. This *cannot* be the intention or true spirit of this code.

I have just spoken with Weldon (Don) Havins, MD, Esq., who is the CEO of the Clark County Medical Society. He agrees with the intent of my letter and the need to revise the current NAC language.

Please let me know how I can be of further assistance. My office phone is (702) 653-2285, cellular phone is (702) 339-2526, fax is (702) 653-2109, and my email is keith.brill@nellis.af.mil.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

KEITH R. BRILL, MD
Major. USAF. MC
Chief, Women's Health Services