



Monday, December 30, 2024

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Commerce and Labor,

I am writing on behalf of Native Voters Alliance Nevada in strong support of Assembly Bill 204—because no one should survive a medical emergency only to have their future destroyed by medical debt.

At NVAN, we believe healthcare should save lives, not ruin them. But what happens after the hospital stay? After the surgeries, the sleepless nights, and the long road to recovery? Patients should be rebuilding their health—not fighting a financial battle they never signed up for. I know this firsthand.

Two months after turning 18, I had to make life-or-death decisions for my father. **One** ambulance ride. **One** emergency surgery. **Two** planned surgeries. **Five** intubations. **Countless** MRIs, X-rays, and scans. **Two months** in the ICU. A feeding tube. **Three months** at UMC. He nearly died from severe bleeding ulcers.

When I opened that first bill, I saw a number I could barely process—a dollar sign followed by an impossible amount that no working family could ever afford to pay off in one lifetime.

This bill is about economic freedom. Over 6 in 10 Nevadans feel shackled by medical debt—not because they were irresponsible, but because they got sick.

This isn't a partisan issue. It's a reality check. No matter your politics, your income, or where you live, you are one bad diagnosis, one accident, one emergency away from being in this exact position.

And let's be clear—this isn't about playing the violin. This is about common sense. Nevadans should be focused on healing, not fighting a lifetime of debt for simply needing medical care.

A hui hou,

/s/ **Mathilda Guerrero Miller, MPPA**

Kānaka Maoli

Government Relations Director

Native Voters Alliance Nevada

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About Native Voters Alliance Nevada: A rising powerhouse in the Nevada political landscape, Native Voters Alliance Nevada (NVAN) is dedicated to forging a dynamic Native ecosystem and fostering political strength within Indigenous communities. We serve as a resonating platform for urban and Tribal Nation voices, guiding elections, molding legislation, and championing tribal sovereignty. Join us in our empowering journey and learn more at <https://nativevotesnv.org/>.