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May 15, 2025

Dear Chair Monroe-Moreno and Members of the Assembly Ways and Means Committee,

My name is Carissa Pearce and I represent the Children's Advocacy Alliance as our Government Affairs Manager. CAA is a nonpartisan, independent voice for Nevada's children with a mission to ensure every child in Nevada thrives.

I am writing in strong **support of AB204** to protect families with medical debt. It is no secret that our current prices for medical treatments are egregious, causing many parents to feel stressed about the financial costs of care for themselves or their children, which may delay receiving care to avoid the medical debt. This issue is exacerbated for children with complex medical needs, with bills that add up rapidly.

AB204 supports families with medical debt by not allowing a patient's wage to be garnished, the patient's house to be foreclosed on, or the patient's bank account to be seized in order to pay off their medical bills, allowing for them to continue providing for their family without the additional economic stresses of not having a home, or not being able to put food on the table.

Receiving life saving medical care shouldn't result in the overwhelming stress that many patients currently feel. We have the opportunity to do better for our families and children with complex medical needs and to show them that receiving medical care doesn't have to upend the family's life. The concerns of losing a child or parent in the event of a medical crisis, or without the support of ongoing care, is challenging enough for the family unit. Please consider easing the burden of medical debt to support our children and families, and **pass AB204**.

Thank you for your commitment to Nevada's children and families.

Carissa Pearce, MPH
Government Affairs Manager
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