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Good afternoon Chair Doñate and Members of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Carissa Pearce, I am the Government Affairs Manager with Children's Advocacy Alliance. CAA is an independent voice for Nevada's children with a mission to ensure all children in Nevada thrive.

I am writing in support of SB306, a bill that addresses critical gaps in Nevada's children's mental health system, specifically around inpatient psychiatric care for youth with emotional disturbances.

Right now, families in crisis are too often left navigating a broken system, being turned away from facilities or discharged without a plan. SB306 sets clear, compassionate guardrails for some of the existing challenges we heard during the presentation about the placement for youth into mental health facilities, and this bill is an essential solution for some of those challenges.

Accessing in-patient care is the first step for supporting our children with navigating their mental health. That support must continue once the child is discharged to ensure they are set up with the opportunity to succeed when they are back with their family, and in the community. A discharge plan is not guaranteed under current law, but will be required through SB306 that will greatly support the continuum of care for a youth's mental health plan.

This bill helps make our mental health system more accountable, more family-centered, and more responsive to the needs of vulnerable youth. We urge your support for SB306 as a necessary step toward ensuring Nevada children receive care with dignity, coordination, and continuity.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to Nevada's children.

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