



Nevada Association of Counties

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FILED

OCT 02 2023

ELIZABETH A. BROWN
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY *[Signature]*
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

September 26, 2023

Nevada Supreme Court
Attn: Elizabeth A. Brown, Clerk of the Supreme Court
201 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

RE: ADKT 0611, with the amendment

Dear Justices of the Nevada Supreme Court and Ms. Brown,

On behalf of the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) Board of Directors, the statewide association which represents all seventeen of Nevada's counties, we thank you for introducing ADKT0611 for the adoption of SCR 49.5 and we are fully supportive of the adoption of this proposed rule and amendment.

Every county in Nevada provides for public defense of indigent persons. As you know, in Nevada, Counties fund an agreed upon portion for these services (maximum contribution formula), with the State of Nevada funding any additional mandates or costs to deliver public defense.

Having an adequate and robust public defense system is crucial to the delivery of fair and equitable justice and meeting the goal of equal treatment under the law. However, currently all levels of government, especially our rural communities, are suffering from a critical shortage of professionals that can be employed in these public interest areas. This proposed rule change, with the amendment proposed by the Department of Indigent Defense Services (DIDS), could assist in increasing the pipeline of eager professionals interested in public service. It would be a welcomed recruitment tool for helping rural counties staff their district attorney and public defender offices.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out directly to myself via email:
vguthreau@nvnaco.org

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Vinson Guthreau
Executive Director

23-32165