WHY WE NEED A MEDICAL SCHOOL

State officials are considering opening a medical school at UNLV, and that’s a proposal long overdue. With a population of more than 2 million people, Las Vegas is the largest metropolitan area in the country without a public medical school, and the absence of such a school is literally hurting the area. Nevada has a shortage of doctors and specialty care practices, and was ranked 47th in the nation by the Commonwealth Fund in quality of health care. And a public medical school would not only mean better health care but also a more robust economy.

Clark County has 1,461 licensed primary care physicians (M.D.s and D.O.s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statewide</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-282</td>
<td>-250</td>
<td>-92</td>
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short in number of primary care physicians
short in number of dentists
short in number of psychiatrists

Nevada ranks 46th nationally in the number of primary care physicians per 100,000 residents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationally</th>
<th>Statewide</th>
<th>Locally</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90.5</td>
<td>71.2</td>
<td>76.8</td>
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primary care physicians per 100,000 Americans
primary care physicians per 100,000 Nevadans
primary care physicians per 100,000 Southern Nevadans

Only 57.8 percent of Nevada’s medical students remain in Nevada as practicing physicians.

Nevada’s poor health care outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>28th</th>
<th>35th</th>
<th>46th</th>
<th>49th</th>
<th>49th</th>
<th>50th</th>
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<tr>
<td>Where Nevada ranks in binge drinking (5 drinks per sitting for men and 4 drinks per sitting for women)</td>
<td>Where Nevada ranks in premature death rate (death before age 75)</td>
<td>Where Nevada ranks in suicide death rate</td>
<td>Where Nevada ranks for percentage of population that lacks health insurance</td>
<td>Where Nevada ranks for percentage of health and federal funding dedicated to public health</td>
<td>Where Nevada ranks in violent crime rate (murders, rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: Tripp Umbach Report on proposed UNLV Medical School and americashealthrankings.org
We Want to hear from you
Send your thoughts to news@thesunday.com

Research
The average medical school in the United States brings in $68 million in research funding, and there would be an expected spinoff benefit from research that can be marketed in the private sector.

Clinical trials
Expect researchers to offer clinical trials, taking advantage of Southern Nevada’s diverse population and medical needs to try cutting-edge treatments.

More doctors train here, more stay here
A study by the national consulting firm Tripp Umbach on the possibility of a UNLV medical school suggests creating 240 residencies to retain doctors, because most doctors stay where they train.

Better expertise
Ongoing training centered at a public medical school creates more opportunities for doctors and medical workers to increase their expertise.

Doctors have an outlet for specialty work
A full medical school would be expected to train more specialists. Although the state needs more primary care physicians, the lack of specialists sends people to Phoenix or Los Angeles for treatment.

Infusion of federal funding
A robust medical school would be a natural place to use federal research grants and programs to improve care.

Increased spending
The Reno-based University of Nevada School of Medicine, which has some programs in Las Vegas, has the smallest economic impact — $285 million a year — of any public, allopathic medical school in the nation, according to Tripp Umbach. A UNLV medical school could pump $1.2 billion a year into the state’s economy by 2030.

More jobs
A UNLV medical school would support 8,000 jobs, including staff and businesses serving the school. A medical school would also be expected to attract pharmaceutical and medical companies to work with the school.

Higher perceived quality of life
The quality of health care would raise the quality of life because of the expertise it would bring to the medical community.

The projected economic impact would be $1.2 BILLION
The projected job creation would be 8,000
The projected government tax revenue would be $60 MILLION

IT WOULD IMPROVE HEALTH CARE

MORE SERVICES
Research
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Clinical trials
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Better equipment
Because of the training mission, which includes continuing education, medical schools are a natural home for state-of-the-art equipment.

HLPING THE COMMUNITY
Clinics and outreach
A full public medical school in Las Vegas would expand health care to poor and underserved communities, with free or low-cost treatment.

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IT WOULD BOOST THE ECONOMY

MORE MONEY FLOWING LOCALLY
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EASIER TO RECRUIT
With better health care, employers should find it easier to recruit people here, which has been difficult.

MORE OPPORTUNITY
With added jobs and business growth, entrepreneurs and people seeking employment will see opportunities here, spurring the economy with increased spending.

GROWTH

BY THE YEAR 2030

60 students in 2017
120 students in 2020
480 students in 2030

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120 students in 2020
480 students in 2030

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