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Office of Governor Steve Sisolak

January 24, 2021

The Honorable Norris W. Cochran
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Cochran:

First, I would like to commend the Biden Administration and your team for moving so quickly to address this tremendously challenging public health emergency. We are currently reviewing the *National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness* document released this week and are actively working to incorporate its elements into our plans and efforts. We are eager to see a unified and coherent national plan, and we look forward to collaborating as this plan is implemented.

I am writing you today to alert you to a concerning situation in Nevada regarding our federal allocation of the COVID-19 vaccine. According to publicly available federal data, Nevada has received the second-lowest number of vaccine doses per capita among all U.S. states so far.

As of Sunday, January 24, [according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), 286,950 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have been distributed to Nevada, which translates to a rate distributed of 9,316 doses per 100,000 people, putting Nevada at the bottom of the list with South Carolina. Nevada has consistently ordered to our state cap allocation, and last week we submitted a comprehensive vaccine order for first doses that would meet the weekly needs of the state which was met with an immediate denial through the ordering system.

As Governor, I have directed every government resource to focus on getting shots into the arms of Nevadans – we have great State and local partnerships that could drastically scale up the number of vaccines that could be administered per day. We need the doses to match that. We need our fair share of vaccine doses to stand up and sustain successful vaccination efforts to reach Nevadans in an equitable fashion. Through this letter I am asking you to look into why Nevada is so low on the allocation list, and more important, to find ways to increase our allocation both immediately and for the long term.

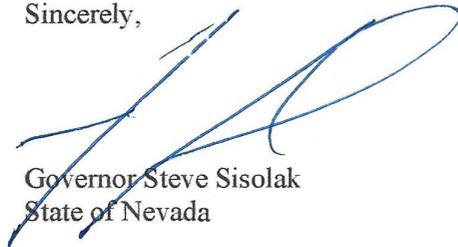
In planning conversations related to the distribution of the vaccine, my State team was told time and time again that all states and territories would receive an equitable allocation, understanding

that supply will outpace demand in the near term. As Nevada's Governor, it is my duty to make sure our federal government lives up to that promise for all 3.2 million residents in this State. I would like to seek additional clarification regarding what population figures the federal government is using to determine Nevada's pro rata allocation, to ensure the figures accurately reflect the State's population.

In addition to this correspondence with you, I have directed my state emergency management agency to request increased allocation of vaccine through FEMA Region IX, and I know our local partners are doing the same.

I look forward to connecting in the near future to help resolve this issue. Please feel free to contact me or my office directly with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steve Sisolak', is written over the typed name and title.

Governor Steve Sisolak
State of Nevada