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Nevada Biotechnology & Health Science Consortium

Economic Growth and Prosperity through Medical Innovation "Freedom" for Nevada by Enhancing its "Right to Try" Law will Create an Economic Boom and Medical Benefits for the World

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John K. Laub
President, NevBio Organization

Introduction

Nevada is a state committed to expanding economic prosperity for all its citizens. Today, Nevada thrives not because of its vast, empty, sandy deserts but due to a bold decision made in 1931 to legalize gambling — an action no other state had dared to take. This single law tapped into a timeless human desire to gamble, transforming Nevada into a prosperous economic hub, creating new businesses, tens of thousands of new jobs and greater prosperity for its citizens.

Economic prosperity stems from two fundamental factors:

1. **Need**: There must be a need, thereby creating a demand — a pressing need waiting to be met.
2. **Freedom**: The liberty to act and provide a solution to that need.

In 1931, Nevada recognized an obvious need — people wanted gambling as a form of entertainment. By legalizing it, Nevada not only met this demand but became the gambling capital of the world. After 50 years of success, other states followed suit, inspired by Nevada's economic triumph despite its barren landscape.

What Can Nevada Do in 2025?

What **great need** can Nevada address to drive further economic growth and prosperity? The most significant opportunity in the world lies in addressing the 'Unmet Medical Needs' of hundreds of millions of people. Each year, 17 million people die from heart disease, while 200 million suffer from it. Each year, cancer claims 14 million lives annually, with over 200 million people affected by this disease. Each year, type-2 diabetes affects more than 380 million people, condemning them to a lifetime of pain, suffering, and premature death. Each year, people suffer from brain disorders, lung diseases, and countless other conditions that lack reasonable treatments, while orphan diseases — so rare that they attract little research — leave countless more suffering. This need is a hundred times greater than the world's desire for entertainment; **it's the need for**

life and health. NevadaBio believes that addressing unmet medical needs may be the most urgent and widespread demand in the world today.

What can Nevada do when governments, charitable foundations, individuals, and investors invest hundreds of billions of dollars in solutions for unmet medical needs, yet achieve, at best, marginal success? Surprisingly, Nevada can do more than any other state by just enhancing its "Right to Try" law and unleashing the genius of free-market innovation. How can that be? Consider the Michael J. Fox Foundation, which reportedly raises over $300 million annually to find a cure for Parkinson's disease. Yet, after 20 years, it has achieved no significant improvements in the care for Parkinson's disease sufferers. Its funding often supports a few grandiose bureaucratic projects at conservative universities that repeat the same unsuccessful approaches with hardly a groundbreaking medical advancement in 2 decades. By contrast, this year's Man of the Year Award is being presented to the President of Zhittya Genesis Medicine, a NevadaBio member, which, as of March 2025, has treated over 200 patients with Parkinson's disease in the British Virgin Islands, where it has clearance to conduct medical research studies. These Parkinson's patients have shown remarkable improvements: over 50% improvement in their motor scores and mental cognition scores, with no one's condition worsening. Why did they succeed? **They had the freedom to try!**

These groundbreaking studies show that the progression of Parkinson's disease has been stopped, a substantial achievement on its own, and patients are also showing improvements on the standard Parkinson's disease rating scale. Yet, despite compelling substantial human medical evidence, Zhittya struggles to get even a single response from the Michael J. Fox Foundation. However, if these studies were in the United States, specifically Nevada, it would lend significant credibility and impact.

In another example, four of the world's leading research institutions — the Salk Institute, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and Scripps Clinic have demonstrated that FGF-1 (the same drug that Zhittya is testing for Parkinson's disease) can reverse type-2 diabetes in mice. This

tantalizing data suggests a potential cure for the 38 million Americans and hundreds of millions of people worldwide suffering from type-2 diabetes. Yet, over a decade later, Big Pharma has made no known effort to advance this discovery. Zhittya, operating under clearance in the British Virgin Islands, has now treated ten type-2 diabetes patients — all of whom have seen their type-2 diabetes reversed. How long will that reversal last? Does it last for 6 months, 6 years, or forever? Is a booster needed every 5 years? No one knows, which is why medical research must continue. Where are Big Pharma, major medical institutions, and the massive diabetes charities? **Nowhere.** Meanwhile, government obstacles delay innovations by 18 years — a deferment that can be a death sentence for many.

NevadaBio estimates that 80% to 90% of biotech discoveries over the past 50 years have failed to reach patients due to the immense barriers between discovery and approval in the United States and worldwide. The London School of Economics reports that securing drug approval in the United States now takes approximately 18 years and costs between $1 billion and $2 billion. In 1962, the process took just 2 years and cost $2 million. Today, it's nine times longer and a thousand times more expensive. Big Pharma benefits from this system, as it locks out 99% of potential competitors — either by buying out smaller companies crippled by these exorbitant costs or by remaining the only entities able to afford such studies. Governments, lawyers, and consultants — who collectively earn billions of dollars annually — see no issue with preserving this lucrative bureaucracy, which we estimate accounts for approximately 80% of the cost of drug approval. Worse still, 99% of the world's nations follow the U.S. FDA's lead, leaving few alternatives to bypass these devastating barriers.

Unlike most industries in the United States, where free-market competition allows young entrepreneurs and startups to innovate and meet needs (think of how smartphones revolutionized ride-sharing with companies like Uber) the medical field stifles such progress. Imagine if Uber, as a startup, had to spend $100 million annually for 15 years just to test its concept and gain permission to pick up passengers. We'd all still be waiting at bus stops.

Patients and Medical Entrepreneurs Need the Freedom to Try

If unmet medical needs represent the most massive and desperate demand in the world, why aren't more entrepreneurs seizing this opportunity? The answer is simple: they don't have the **freedom to try**. In the United States today, conducting medical research studies on humans is **neither** explicitly legal nor illegal. However, fear of the U.S. FDA and its potential retribution for proceeding without clearance paralyzes innovation. Defy the FDA, and the approval process could stretch from 18 years to 30 years, or never happen at all.

As a result, new medical discoveries often languish, approval costs skyrocket, competition is stifled, and patients remain ill. Even when treatments finally clear these hurdles, they may cost $3,000 per month — unaffordable for many patients because there is no competition. FDA approval alone doesn't help patients if they can't access the medicine. Consider the evolution of cell phones: early Motorola handsets were expensive, had short battery life, and were unreliable. Competition transformed them into today's affordable, powerful handheld computers. A similar transformation could address the health and longevity needs of hundreds of millions of people worldwide — and Nevada has a unique opportunity to lead this charge and prosper economically.

Enhancing Nevada's Right to Try Law

By liberalizing Nevada's Right to Try law, private companies could conduct research and gather critical data at a fraction of the current cost, free from reliance on Big Pharma's deep pockets. Companies can quickly determine if a drug is safe and effective, as well as the recommended dosage, before initiating FDA clinical trials. Doesn't this put patients at risk? There are risks to patients even in FDA-approved trials. However, patients with horrific diseases — who know they will die could consent to participate in that research study. These studies would be approved by an Institutional Review Board (IRB), established under the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), to protect patients. Participants would sign an informed consent agreement after receiving complete information about the drug. This approach could also expedite the identification of

repurposed drugs: drugs already approved as safe for other uses but unexplored for new treatments. It would also include inexpensive drugs that have been overlooked due to prohibitive clinical trial costs.

This would level the playing field for smaller innovators and significantly reduce the costs of drug development. Lower costs translate directly into cheaper, more accessible drugs for patients in the aftermarket, breaking the cycle of exorbitant pricing that excludes so many from life-saving treatments. This economic opportunity could create hundreds of new businesses, tens of thousands of high-paying, clean jobs, and, most importantly, improve the lives of millions of people globally — all while building on Nevada's legacy of bold medical innovation.

Nevada took the first step in this direction by passing its "Right to Try" law two years before the federal government approved its version. Yet, *Forbes* reports that in seven years, the federal Right to Try law has been used just 17 times—averaging 2.5 cases per year. For a nation of 340 million, this is certainly underwhelming. Patients with ALS, glioblastoma, stage-4 Parkinson's disease, and other conditions are routinely deemed ineligible. The law's restrictive design renders it nearly useless, as evidenced by its minimal utilization.

The Law's Flaws are Glaring

- It applies only to patients certified to have less than a year to live, excluding those who are severely ill but may survive longer, such as a stage-4 Parkinson's disease patient facing five more years of agony.
- It discourages entrepreneurs from taking financial risks to gather data and advance medicine because they need patients who can benefit from the treatment, not those who are certain to die. Such deaths must be reported to the FDA and could be blamed on the drug and undo years of work.
- Drugs must first pass FDA Phase I clinical trials, which cost between $3 million and $5 million and take 2 to 3 years. Medical universities conduct medical studies without this requirement — why impose it on entrepreneurial companies? Entrepreneurs should have the same clearance

requirements as universities, which can be obtained through an Institutional Review Board (IRB), as discussed earlier.

- Profit is prohibited under the current "Right to Try Law," which forbids fair compensation. It's no wonder companies avoid it. A Parkinson's disease patient who donates $100,000 annually for ten years to the Michael J. Fox Foundation would likely fund their own participation in a research study aimed at saving their life and providing data that could benefit future patients.

Changing the Right to Try Law

A few common-sense changes to Nevada's Right to Try law could unlock an economic boom rivaling the legalization of gambling. This liberalization would attract not only companies eager to conduct medical studies in Nevada, but also doctors seeking to pursue their own private medical research, bringing with them nurses, support staff, and more. Additionally, the influx of patients from around the world through medical tourism would supercharge Nevada's already robust tourism industry. Drawing millions of ill people from around the world to seek life-enhancing treatments would benefit all. Nevada could become the global hub of medical innovation, all at no cost to the state. Clinics, doctors, and nurses are already here, and more would relocate for the high-paying jobs this industry would create. Economic benefits could emerge within months of the law's passage.

Medical Marijuana has been Approved — Why Not Other Medical Treatments?

Medical marijuana was approved twice by the citizens of Nevada in 1998 and 2000. It tells us that new treatment options are popular within our great state. Medical marijuana does not reverse any diseases, but it was approved to help patients who were dealing with cancer, chemotherapy, HIV drugs, depression, sleep disorders, pain, and other conditions. Medical marijuana was approved without requiring FDA Phase I clinical trials or years-long studies for new strains. A system was established to ensure safety through lab testing, and patients were

required to obtain a card. Why don't we extend similar freedom to treatments that could save lives?

Conclusion

Nevada stands on the brink of a massive economic opportunity to enhance its prosperity. By enacting a common-sense Right to Try law that grants desperate individuals the freedom to improve their health and lives, Nevada can lead a global medical revolution. The need is immense, but freedom is currently denied, and Nevada has the power to change the world of medicine by championing personal liberty and innovation. A few changes in the existing law **would cost the State of Nevada nothing**. These few changes unleash the medical innovation of entrepreneurs to address this urgent need. If you have Parkinson's disease, would you bet your life on the Michael J. Fox Foundation, which, in 20 years and with over $2 billion spent, has accomplished nothing to benefit you? Or would you trust someone like Dr. Jacobs, who has effectively reversed Parkinson's disease in 5 years at a fraction of the cost?

Freedom to choose, freedom to act, and freedom to try to save one's own life are not privileges granted by the government — they are the most fundamental human right: **The right to life.**

NevadaBio seeks your comments and ideas. Nevada can change the world of medicine. Nevada is Battle Born, and the most significant battle today is the fight for freedom to save our lives through medical innovation. It's a battle Nevada is uniquely equipped to win by challenging the established medical cartel with Nevada freedom.

Contact: John K. Laub, President NevadaBio
john.k.laub@gmail.com

Share your thoughts!