



Clark County Education Association



March 23, 2021

Nevada Assembly Committee on Education  
C/O Chair Assemblywoman Shannon Bilbray-Axelrod  
401 S Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

**Re: Public Comment for March 23, 2021, Assembly Education Hearing AB194: Revises provisions governing the suspension and expulsion of pupils. (BDR 34-176).**

Hello and thank you, Committee Chairwoman Bilbray-Axelrod, and committee members. My name is Hawah Ahmad and I am here representing the Clark County Education Association. Prior to accepting my job with CCEA, I worked at a rural district court where I was able to understand the juvenile justice system past minor offenses like school suspension and expulsion. In my time since I began working for CCEA it has become abundantly clear that the juvenile justice approach varies from county to county, and school district to school district, and that an appeal process is needed if we want to truly prevent recidivism or escalation of offenses.

In many ways we must approach juvenile justice with compassion and understanding for the children and the families. That is why CCEA support AB194. AB194 presents the opportunity for a standardized appeal process, amended to allow for processes to be defined by regulation to allow for flexibility in the evolution of restorative justice in Nevada. It is important to note, that though CCEA supports this bill, we feel that a necessary component has been missing from our change to restorative practices, and that is training. Our teachers currently feel that the implementation or lack thereof of restorative justice practices is so varied that it fails to get to the root cause of the issue to provide healing and coping mechanisms for children. Instead, many of our processes focus on the aftermath of negative conduct and highlight punishment and confinement. Additionally, the lack of accountability that has accompanied previous bills has prevented our educators from “buying in” to the idea of restorative practices.

AB194 is a game changer. The new accountability measures will help to ensure that every suspension and expulsion is annotated, to better understand and highlight the racial disparities in the current scheme and to ensure that we can address why we have those racial and socioeconomic disparities to prevent them from reoccurring. Overall, this bill provides a much need step in our path towards juvenile justice reform. We look forward to continuing our work with Assemblywoman Torres to make this bill a reality. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Hawah Ahmad  
Lobbyist  
Clark County Education Association

# CCEA

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the union  
of teaching  
professionals