CCEA
Clark County Education Association

the union of teaching professionals

4230 McLeod Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89121
Tel. 702/733-3063
800/772-2282
Fax 702/733-0240
www.ccea-nv.org

March 23, 2021

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

Re: Public Comment for March 23, 2021: AB195: Revises provisions relating to pupils who are English learners. (BDR 34-174).

Hello and thank you, Committee Chair Bilbray-Axelrod, and committee members. My name is Marie Neisess, and I am the president of the Clark County Education Association.

The Clark County Education Association (CCEA) represents more than 18,000 licensed professionals in the Clark County School District. We are the largest independent teacher's union in the country and the State of Nevada. We engage in bipartisan advocacy for advancing public education in Nevada.

During my 28 years of employment with CCSD, I worked at three Title 1 schools with predominantly English Learner students. I know firsthand how getting a quality education impacts an EL student because I was an EL student when I started kindergarten. Spanish was my first language, and having access to quality instruction and effective educators helped me learn English rather quickly and excel academically.

This is why I strongly support AB 195. Last school year, nearly 53,000 English learners attended Clark County schools. Each of these students deserves equal access to quality education. AB195 establishes rights for both the EL parent and students and details specific data to be collected by school districts. It is with this data that Nevada can learn about the successes and struggles of our EL population. Data must drive Nevada's steps toward equity and access for English learners.

As our state moves toward full implementation of SB543, we believe AB195 would also add a layer of accountability that enables legislators and law-makers to review our English learners' academic engagement and progress.

Respectfully,

Marie Neisess

Marie Neisess, President
Clark County Education Association