

March 30, 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 29, 2021: AB257:** Establishes provisions governing indoor air quality in public schools. (BDR 34-212).

Good afternoon, Committee Chair Bilbray-Axelrod, and committee members. My name Dr. Brenda Pearson, and I am representing the Clark County Education Association.

The Clark County Education Association (CCEA) is the official bargaining partner for the Clark County School District and represents more than 18,000 licensed professionals. We engage in bipartisan advocacy for advancing public education in Nevada and Clark County.

CCEA is testifying in neutral on AB257. We appreciate the intent of this bill, however, we are incredibly concerned that the cost of the functional ventilation systems will come out of the classroom. In the original form of this bill, the Office of Energy was charged with awarding a grant to a school for purposes of air quality. Under the amendment, each public school would be required to ensure installation and maintenance of adequate ventilation systems to the extent that money is available. The issue is, we do not have excess funds for infrastructure in schools in Clark County School District. Even with the pandemic, some of our classes are 60% over the recommended class size ratios, with children being left without the classroom resources needed to address the learning gaps created over the last year of COVID closures. We cannot support a diversion of funds from our students. Additionally, the new section requiring each local educational agency to include its plan for a safe return to in-person instruction is redundant to our current practices, our collective bargaining agreements, which include this information, and SB173.

We urge this committee to find a source of funding for this bill, separate from our currently designated school funds. Even though the implementation date is July 1, 2023, it is contingent upon money being available. As we still fight to fund SB543 optimally, it is very difficult for us to support an additional cost that will not directly benefit our students. This is not to say that ventilation systems and air quality are not important, we are just in a position where we must put our students and educators first until there is money to utilize for infrastructure costs.

Respectfully,

Dr. Brenda Pearson  
Clark County Education Association