

March 25, 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 25, 2021: AB319: Establishes a pilot program relating to dual credit courses. (BDR S-925)**

Good afternoon, Committee Chair Bilbray-Axelrod, and committee members. My name is 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 supports AB319 and thanks Assemblyman Roberts for bringing this bill forward. Multiple dual credit bills have been submitted during the 2021 Legislative session, but, to my knowledge, none have aligned dual credit opportunities with our underserved, economically disadvantaged high school students. With 17% of Nevada's students classified as English Learners and approximately 48% of ELs likely living in socio-economically disadvantaged families, AB319 aligns opportunities with communities who have historically experienced low rates of participation in postsecondary education.

The additional support system put into place by CSN builds a structure where students can access, among other supports, academic advising, counseling, and tutoring. In other words, a support system will be in place at high schools and at the College of Southern Nevada, increasing the likelihood of long-term academic success.

Nevada's students deserve postsecondary opportunities. My son once told me that the goal of Nevada's public schools are to graduate students, whereas the goal of private schools are to get students into good universities and careers. That should not be the case. Nevada needs to ensure pathways are available to ALL students leading them through K-12 to postsecondary college and career opportunities.

CCEA believes that Assembly Bill 319 offers our students such a path, and we look forward to working with Assemblyman Roberts to bring this bill to fruition.

Respectfully,

Dr. Brenda Pearson  
Clark County Education Association