



Clark County Education Association



March 2, 2021

Nevada Senate Committee on Revenue and Economic Development
C/O Chair Senator Dina Neal
401 S Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: Public Comment for March 2, 2021 Senate Education Hearing SB117: Revises provisions relating to economic development. (BDR 18-600)

Hello and thank you Committee Chairwoman Neal, and committee members. My name is Hawah Ahmad, and I am here representing 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 in the State of Nevada. We engage in bipartisan advocacy for advancing public education in Nevada.

CCEA is testifying in support on Senate Bill 117 and thanks the sponsors for bringing this bill forth. We know now, more than ever that we must develop and diversify the Nevada economy. However, we cannot let another nine years go by to decide that economic development is still a priority. By implementing SB117, Nevada will ensure that there is flexibility available to periodically revise the plan to align with new and emerging industries.

If we were to suggest any changes to this bill it would be to request that those updated plans provide specific information related to progress on diversifying our economy. Economic development is not necessarily synonymous with economic diversity. We strongly believe that our State's economy must diversify so we do not experience the same drastic downturn we have experienced by relying on two industries.

We would also suggest that the sponsor of the bill consider adding language under Section 3 that emphasizes focus on the types of incentives that would help facilitate economic diversity in our economy. Our economy must diversify and key to that is having a workforce with the education and skills to serve those industries and businesses. Nevada's k-12 system is the base of Nevada's k-20 education delivery system. We must strengthen the base. Now more than ever as Legislators and the Governor chart a course of recovery, investing in our State's education delivery system is paramount. Accordingly, SB117 is a step in the right direction in monitoring our economy in a timely and surgical way.

Thank you for your efforts, we look forward to doing all that we can to support economic diversification, workforce development and giving every student an opportunity to succeed.

Respectfully,

Hawah Ahmad, J.D., CIPP/E

Lobbyist

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