

March 18, 2021

Nevada Senate Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections
C/O Chair Senator James Ohrenschall
401 S Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: Public Comment for March 18, 2021: SB128: Directs the State Treasurer to conduct a study concerning publicly funded scholarship and grant programs in this State. (BDR S-535).

Hello and thank you Committee Chair Ohrenschall, 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 neutral on Senate Bill 128. CCEA would like to thank the sponsors of this bill and Treasurer Conine for his efforts to support the Nevada education delivery systems. Today we are in neutral because we would like to state, on the record, that students from Nevada's K-12 schools overwhelming matriculate into Nevada's system of higher education. As such, when we discuss scholarships, we must acknowledge that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Nevada's first generation and EL students are experiencing a decrease in college enrollment. If we want to ensure that our students, of all backgrounds, continue to see higher education as a possibility, we urge this committee to include K-12 stakeholders. Consulting and soliciting input from K-12 stakeholders will ensure alignment between K-12 and NSHE in order to better understand the effectiveness of publicly funded scholarship and grant programs.

We must reiterate that we appreciate the intent of this bill and thank the sponsors for their efforts. We look forward to continuing the conversation to ensure that our educators are doing all they can to support the goals of our students. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Hawah Ahmad, Lobbyist
Clark County Education Association