



Clark County Education Association



March 10, 2021

Nevada Senate Committee on Education
C/O Chair Senator Moises Denis
401 S Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: Public Comment for March 10, 2021 Senate Education Hearing SB151: Revises provisions relating to education. (BDR 34-77)

Hello and thank you Committee Chair Denis, and committee members. My name is Hawah Ahmad, and I am here representing the Clark County Education Association. We engage in bipartisan advocacy for advancing public education in Nevada.

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 supports the Senate Bill 151 and thanks Senator Dondero Loop for working with us on this bill.

This bill ensures that every school district reflects upon progress made to get to the long-term goal for non-binding ratios for our social and behavioral support system in our K-12 education system. Our school psychologists, counselors, and social workers have already dealt with high professional to student ratios over years. With the anticipated rise of mental health issues due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, it is incredibly important to have accountability measures in place to make sure that our long-term goals can be met and that we can be agile in our approach to creating pipelines for mental health professionals in education.

It is clear that a reduction in caseloads for our mental health professionals will lead to increased student success in academics and will help to develop the social and emotional growth factor linked to academic success. Though the ultimate goal of this bill projects us fifteen years into the future, the reporting mechanism in this bill will ensure that we keep our eye on the target and achieve our goals.

CCEA thanks the committee and the Sponsor for their effort and looks forward to supporting the development of mental health support in K-12.

Respectfully,

Hawah Ahmad, JD, CIPP/E
Lobbyist
Clark County Education Association