

March 29, 2021

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

**Re: Public Comment for March 29, 2021: SB194: Revises provisions relating to education. (BDR 34-676)**

Good afternoon, Committee Chair Denis, and committee members. My name is Dr. Brenda Pearson, and I am here 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 Senate Bill 194. SB194 underscores the importance of civics education in high school. It brings civics to the forefront by connecting curriculum with community-based projects, while offering college credits for those high school students who meet the criteria.

Concerns remain, though, regarding the proposed implementation of SB194. Service-learning incorporates service into the learning process, and if implemented appropriately, connects the student with their community. Incorporating service-learning programs in schools across Nevada assumes that educators are well-versed in the pedagogy. This is often not the case. Legislators must not merely propose programs for implementation but must also ensure that *quality* implementation is prioritized. Quality implementation includes additional preparation and professional learning by both educators and schools, and at this time, the SB194 has not addressed these components.

Additionally, Silver State students can earn college credits for being awarded a State Seal in Civics, but we must consider the content area in which the credits are earned. College credits must not be used to replace the foundational coursework required by college students. We ask the sponsors of this bill to consider including language delineating the content areas in which credits can be earned.

CCEA appreciates the intent of SB 194, and we believe in the benefit of introducing a State Seal of Civics program to students across Nevada. To ensure that this program is as impactful as the sponsors have intended, it is essential that we first prepare our educators with knowledge and practices of civics and service-learning. We must prioritize the implementation of *quality programs* in Nevada's schools, and as written, SB194 does not include the details necessary to create a high yield learning opportunity for Nevada's students. We look forward to working with the sponsors to bring this bill to fruition.

Respectfully,  
Brenda Pearson, Ph.D.  
Clark County Education Association