



Clark County Education Association



April 5, 2021

Assembly Health and Human Services
C/O Chair Rochelle T. Nguyen
401 S Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: Public Comment for April 5, 2021: AB374: Establishes requirements governing the expenditure of proceeds of litigation relating to opioids. (BDR 40-991)

Hello and thank you Committee Chairwoman Nguyen, and committee members. My name is Hawah Ahmad, and I am here representing the Clark County Education Association. The Clark County Education Association is the official bargaining partner of the Clark County School District, representing more than 18,000 licensed professionals, including our school nurses, counselors, psychologists, and social workers.

Last week, CCEA spoke in neutral on AB205 due to the question on how the bill will be funded. Today, we are testifying in neutral on AB374. We applaud the sponsors of this bill for paying close attention to how the proceeds from the litigation relating to opioids is spent, but we ask that this money be considered to fund our efforts to combat the opioid epidemic in our schools. When it comes down to it, we are anticipating a plethora of issues relating to mental and behavior health, that include expected opioid abuse. As such, we are asking all our schools to provide opioid antagonists but are expecting schools districts to seek out their own mechanisms for training and funding for the medication. We ask that instead of leaving room for error, in which money from the classroom may be taken and spent on opioid antagonists, that the specific use of opioid antagonists be named as a consideration that the Working Group must evaluate for use of the funds. We ask that this use be specified to be in addition to any input solicited from the public comment periods to ensure that the implementation date of July 1, 2021 for AB205 can be followed.

We appreciate all of the work that has gone into this bill and acknowledge that the silence on the matter does not prohibit use of these funds for the purposes of AB205. We just know the need is pressing and that a slowed down administrative process may make the difference of whether we get people trained in time at all of our schools.

We look forward to working with the sponsors to ensure that every penny from the litigation is utilized in an impactful manner, to prevent all unnecessary deaths caused by opioid overdoses. Most importantly, thank you to the sponsors for stimulating discussion on this topic.

Respectfully,

Hawah S. Ahmad
Lobbyist
Clark County Education Association