

OFFICIAL BARGAINING PARTNER TO CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT, REPRESENTING MORE THAN 18,000 LICENSED PROFESSIONALS.

April 26, 2021

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

Re: Public Comment for Senate Education Hearing AB38: Revises provisions relating to career and technical education and work-based learning. (BDR 34-302).

Good afternoon Committee Chair Denis,

My name is Dr. Brenda Pearson, and I am here representing the Clark County Education Association (CCEA).

CCEA is testifying in neutral on AB38. CCEA supports investing in the Nevada Education System to ensure that we have the skilled workforce necessary for a diversified economy. We believe this bill will help streamline the efficiency for work-based learning and will help to ensure that every stakeholder's voice is heard, and that every work-based program in K-12 is outcome determinative to either a certification or credential leading to further education to employment, or directly to employment.

CCEA appreciates the intent of the Department to bring this bill forward, but CCEA has concerns that this bill is too narrowly tailored in that it assumes that every LEA will apply for Perkins's funding.

All hands must be on deck to ensure that our existing work-based programs are strengthened, and Nevada creates needed programs to fill current and projected job openings. We must strategically invest our time, money, and efforts to provide **every** student with opportunities. CCEA must emphasize that the path to rebuilding Nevada's economy is economic diversification and workforce development and to get on that path, we MUST invest in K-20 through the full implementation of SB543 to the optimal level.

This legislature passed SB543 last session, with the intention to fund the pupil-centered funding plan in the 2021 legislative session. It is now over halfway through the 2021 session and this legislature has discussed everything except funding SB543. CCEA understands that it takes both the Democrats and Republicans, under the Governor's leadership, to be able to introduce and pass new revenue. By failing to fund SB543, we are telling families and students throughout Nevada that last place is good enough. We do not have time to wait for another legislative session to find and pass new revenue, the time for change is now. If this legislature chooses not to, Nevada voters will do it in 2022.

CCEA appreciates the efforts of this committee and all stakeholders for this bill and supports all efforts that foster integrated learning opportunities that lead to skill and workforce development. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Brenda Pearson, Ph.D.
Clark County Education Association