

April 22, 2021

Nevada Assembly Committee on Education
C/O Chair Assemblywoman Bilbray-Axelrod
401 S Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: Public Comment for April 22, 2021: SB173: Revises provisions relating to education. (BDR S-1003)

Good Afternoon Committee Chair Bilbray-Axelrod, and committee members. My name is Marie Neisess, and I am the President of the Clark County Education Association.

CCEA is testifying in neutral on Senate Bill 173. This is a much-needed opportunity to reduce learning loss attributed to the disparities of access and equity exacerbated by the pandemic. The learning loss experienced by students across Nevada is still largely unknown, and the path toward reducing this loss will not be fully realized for years to come. CCEA educators know first-hand the instructional loss our students experienced as a result of the pandemic. This is why CCEA is in agreement with CCSD to provide a robust and tailored approach for summer learning opportunities to a broad sector of students. Plans have already been made and are ready to implement. We believe this is the right approach and respectfully stand in neutral to SB173, which requires a role of the State Department of Education that is not necessary.

As this committee knows, only a portion of students across Nevada will access the summer learning opportunities outlined in this bill, leaving many students behind, resulting in the widening of Nevada's achievement gap. Nevada must fully fund the K-12 education system, so consistent and stable supports and interventions are afforded to Nevada's students so they can make the academic gains necessary. For this reason, this legislative committee needs a designated revenue stream to fund education.

During the 2019 Legislative Session, Senate Bill 543 was passed with the intent of funding the pupil-centered funding plan in 2021. We are now through over half of the session without a discussion about additional revenue. CCEA understands that to pass new revenue, we need a bipartisan effort, led by the Governor. Any decision short of passing new revenue this session communicates that being ranked at the bottom of the Nation in academic achievement is acceptable. You, as Legislators, have the choice to lead on new revenue that students cannot wait for.

Respectfully,



Marie Neisess, President
Clark County Education Association