

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

May 6, 2021

Nevada Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
C/O Chair Senator Ratti
401 S Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: Public Comment for AB374: Establishes the Statewide Substance Use Response Working Group.
(BDR 40-991)

Hello and thank you Committee Chairwoman Ratti, and committee members. My name is Hawah Ahmad, and I am here representing the Clark County Education Association.

CCEA supports Assembly Bill 374, as amended and thanks Assemblywoman Tolles and Senator Seevers Gansert for bringing this bill forward.

At the beginning of the pandemic we realized that the stay at home orders were going to open up the potential for increased substance use. However, as we try to address substance use and overdose from all fronts with our mental and behavioral professionals, wrap around services, and programs that provide opioid antagonists on-campus, we must look to how we can work together as a community to put people, and students in recovery. Through the addition of a representative of K-12, this workgroup will be able to address substance use in our education system. Additionally, we now have an opportunity to discuss and implement best practices that would lead to proactive supports to address this issue.

Clark County's Mission High school, the first comprehensive secondary school designed for students in recovery from substance abuse, use and or dependency, has brought hope and support to students in need. We hope that by adding K-12 to this workgroup we will be able to look at the successes of Mission High School and devise Health and Human Service public outreach across the rest of the state that replicate the program.

At the end of the day, as educators, we must do everything in our power to put our student's health first. CCEA looks forward to supporting the development of this workgroup.

Respectfully,

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