



May 31, 2017

Senator Joyce Woodhouse
Chair Senate Finance Committee
Nevada Legislature, 79th Session

Re: SB 547

Dear Senator Woodhouse and Senate Finance Committee members,

SB 547 is a bill that sets unwise policy and would hurt kids. We ask you to oppose it.

SB547 is directed towards only one school district, CCSD, regarding a “salary incentive program” that must be included in the pertinent collective bargaining agreement. Section 4 mandates that the Board of Trustees “reserve money sufficient to carry out any increase in salary,” as a result of professional growth plans. SB547 largely mirrors the CCEA-CCSD Collective bargaining agreement and its professional growth plan incentives. (2015-2017 COLLECTIVELY BARGAINED AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE CLARK COUNTY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION, Sec. 26-3 ([http://www.boarddocs.com/nv/ccsd/v/Board.nsf/files/A5YTP76F3775/\\$file/01.14.16%20Ref.%207.03.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/nv/ccsd/v/Board.nsf/files/A5YTP76F3775/$file/01.14.16%20Ref.%207.03.pdf)).

CCSD and CCEA, which has lobbied for this bill, are involved in a dispute over interpretation of the professional growth plan incentives in their agreement. SB547 weighs in on the side of CCEA. This is bad policy. In general, the Nevada Constitution directs the Legislature to make laws of general application. ([Nev. Const. art. 4, § 21](#)), and disfavors “special deals” for interest groups. Should the Legislature decide to weigh in on the side of one disputant, where would the Legislature draw the line when other unions and large employers come to the Legislature to weigh in on their dispute? This bill short cuts dispute resolution process that the law sets up in contract and courts. That’s what courts are for!

CCEA has claimed that this clause helps kids in Title I schools. The data does not back up that claim. When this agreement was signed in 2015, 80% of teacher vacancies were in Title I schools. The most recent data for April 2017 shows that 80% of CCSD teacher vacancies continue to be in Title I schools.

We do not weigh in on who is right in this dispute. Rather, we weigh in on the side of kids. It is clear that ordering CCSD to “reserve money” will reduce the amount of monies available for children’s instruction. Layoffs, larger class sizes, cutbacks in needed programs, such as ELL and cultural diversity training, will be the areas most likely to be cutback if this bill passes. In sum, this bill will hurt kids.

Respectfully submitted,

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