

SUPPORT TESTIMONY - SCHOOL LUNCH - Shelby Swartz AB268

My name is Shelby Swartz and I am the Executive Director of Battle Born Progress, but again, I am also here as a mother who understands the crushing weight of rising costs on Nevada families. No parent should have to worry about whether their child will have a nutritious meal at school. With this bill, Assemblymember Jauregui is taking bold, meaningful action to provide real financial relief to working families while ensuring every child in Nevada is fed and ready to learn.

Providing permanent, guaranteed school lunches for Nevada students is more than just an investment in our children's health and education—it's a lifeline for hardworking parents struggling to make ends meet. Free school meals dramatically reduce or eliminate this cost, allowing parents to redirect their hard-earned money toward rent, utilities, school supplies, and other necessities that support their children's growth and success.

Beyond financial savings, this bill ensures that no child in Nevada will have to sit in a classroom hungry or embarrassed because they couldn't afford a meal. Children with access to balanced, nutritious food learn better, focus more, and thrive—regardless of their family's income. Investing in school meal programs strengthens individual households and our entire community. Our schools, workforce, and economy all benefit when families have relief.

This bill is also a chance for the Governor to right a wrong from the last session. Families are still struggling under the weight of past decisions that failed to put their needs first. Now is the time to change course, to stand with parents, and to ensure that every child in Nevada has the nourishment they need to succeed.

With this bill, Assemblymember Jauregui is leading the way on this issue, showing that she is truly fighting for Nevada's families. I urge you to support Assembly Bill 268 and boldly invest in our children, our families, and our future.