

Committee on Judiciary
401 South Carson Street
Rm 3138
Carson City, NV

Dear Chairwoman Miller and Esteemed Committee

On behalf of NAACP Las Vegas, Chapter 1111, we write to express our strong support for Assembly Bill 320 (AB 320)—a critical step toward addressing systemic inequities within Nevada's criminal justice system. The disparities in courtroom access, pretrial detention, and post-incarceration employment opportunities have disproportionately harmed Black, Brown, and low-income communities for generations. AB 320 is a necessary reform that seeks to remove these barriers and promote fairness, equity, and rehabilitation.

For too long, our legal system has operated in ways that punish poverty and perpetuate cycles of incarceration. AB 320 directly tackles these issues by:

Ensuring courtroom access for all defendants, regardless of attire. No individual should be denied their constitutional right to due process based on their clothing. This provision protects marginalized individuals—especially those experiencing financial hardship or housing insecurity—from being unjustly excluded from their own legal proceedings.

Reforming bail practices to prevent unnecessary incarceration of first-time, non-violent offenders.** Nevada's current bail system disproportionately impacts Black and Brown defendants, who are more likely to be held in pretrial detention simply because they cannot afford bail. This has devastating consequences: individuals lose jobs, housing, and the ability to care for their families—all before they've been convicted of any crime. AB 320 recognizes that cash bail should not be a tool for criminalizing poverty.

Creating employment opportunities for parolees and probationers. One of the greatest challenges for individuals reentering society after incarceration is securing stable employment. The lack of economic opportunity fuels recidivism and continues to punish individuals long after they've served their time. AB 320 establishes a pilot program focused on job readiness and employment placement, breaking down these systemic barriers and promoting successful reintegration.

As a leading civil rights organization committed to justice and equal opportunity, NAACP Las Vegas, Chapter 1111 urges you and your colleagues to support and pass AB 320. This legislation aligns with the core principles of fairness and rehabilitation, ensuring that individuals—particularly those from historically disenfranchised communities—are given a true chance to move forward with dignity.

We appreciate your leadership on this issue and look forward to working together to advance policies that dismantle systemic inequities and build a more just Nevada.

Sincerely,

Ashley Dodson, CEO
Anchored Perspectives

On the behalf NAACP Las Vegas, Chapter 1111