

NEVADA FACULTY ALLIANCE

To: Assembly Education Committee

Meeting on March 20, 2025

From: Amy Pason, Nevada Faculty Alliance Government Affairs Committee

PUBLIC COMMENT: Neutral AB 328

I write this comment in my capacity as the chair of the Government Relations Committee for the state Nevada Faculty Alliance. We are neutral on the bill as we recognize the need and importance of researching the economic, political, social, educational and historical impacts of slavery, Jim Crow laws, de jure and de facto racial segregation and other forms of racial discrimination in the State of Nevada. We wish to provide resources and ideas for who might engage in such work in our academic institutions.

As faculty, we support the ability to research topics (even controversial ones) that enable us to better understand our societies and to address issues that we face as a state. We champion public policy grounded in academic research, and see our public education mission as also informing the public on ways to understand the challenges that face our communities.

As I read Section 2 of the bill, I think about it as a researcher where the components of study are research questions that can be addressed by an interdisciplinary and cross-institutional team of scholars. I can envision a “call for researchers” that would elicit applications and interest from scholars in history, economics, political science, sociology, psychology, public policy, criminal justice, philosophy, as well as those that specialize in different fields specific to race and justice issues. I can also imagine that a robust research team interested in these questions specific to our state could be found in any of our institutions of higher education, but also in museums, historic societies, or a number of other policy institutions. In short, I can imagine the potential and possibilities of the types of expertise needed and interested in addressing these important topics.

We look forward to seeing how this bill develops, especially related to the composition of researchers, and the directions this research will take.

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The [Nevada Faculty Alliance](#) is the independent statewide association of professional employees of the colleges and universities of the Nevada System of Higher Education. The NFA is affiliated with the [American Association of University Professors](#), which advocates for academic freedom, shared governance, and faculty rights, and the [American Federation of Teachers/AFL-CIO](#), representing over 300,000 higher education professionals nationwide. The NFA works to empower our members to be wholly engaged in our mission to help students succeed.