



Dear Chairperson and members of the committee,

My name is Ronnie Najarro, the State Director with Americans for Prosperity in Nevada, and on behalf of numerous activists, we urge you to oppose Senate Bill 301. This bill seeks to amend Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) 288.425 to expand the definition of "employee" for collective bargaining purposes by including Category I, II, and III peace officers in the unclassified service of the State. Although we recognize and respect the dedicated service of our peace officers, the provisions of this bill, as proposed, could have unintended negative consequences that undermine the integrity of public sector collective bargaining and disrupt the balance of labor relations in Nevada.

Currently, collective bargaining rights under NRS 288.425 are reserved for specific categories of public employees within the classified service of the Executive Department. This structure ensures that the collective bargaining process is manageable, predictable, and conducive to efficient governance, while maintaining fairness and consistency for all state employees. By expanding the definition of "employee" to include peace officers in the unclassified service, this could disrupt the delicate balance that exists between labor and management within the public sector. The introduction of special bargaining rights for peace officers in the unclassified service, would create a fragmented and inconsistent approach to collective bargaining across different sectors of public employment.

Furthermore, as written, SB301 create conflicts of interest and complicate the negotiation process. Peace officers already receive unique benefits, compensation packages, and protections in comparison to other state employees due to the nature of their work. Granting them collective bargaining rights in a system designed for more traditional government employees could result in wage and benefit disparities that are not only unfair but also unsustainable in the long term, creating a huge risk for Nevadan taxpayers. It may also set a precedent for other specialized employees to seek similar treatment, leading to an unmanageable expansion of collective bargaining rights that could ultimately disrupt the overall public service system and balanced budget. As Nevada brace for unknown economic woes, SB301 would create significant fiscal strain on state and local budget due to increased costs of negotiating and implementing separate contracts for peace officers, on top of those already negotiated for other classified state employees,

In conclusion, we urge you to oppose SB301 would introduce unnecessary complexities into the collective bargaining process, create disparities, and potentially place a heavy financial strain on state and local budgets. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, 

Ronnie Najarro

State Director