



April 10, 2025

Assembly Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections

401 S. Carson Street Room 3149

Carson City, NV 89701

Subject: Support for Assembly Bill 79 (AB79)

Good Afternoon Chair Mosca and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Ryan Vortisch —that’s spelled R-Y-A-N, last name V-O-R-T-I-S-C-H, and I am the Northern Nevada Democracy Coordinator of Silver State Voices. I’m here to testify in support of AB79 on behalf of my organization and the Let Nevadans Vote coalition.

The size of an elected officer’s personal wallet should not be a barrier to serving office. Yet—especially in our legislature— we are seeing turnover due to the lack of benefits and livable wages.¹ AB79 helps to address this problem.

Personal expenses like child care or health insurance premiums are *not* luxuries, but basic necessities. Many Nevadans are parents, live in multi-generational households, or don’t have bottomless pockets. At Silver State Voices, we are in strong support of AB79 because we believe it offers a pathway towards a truly representative democracy, where people from all walks of life are able to run for office. Nevada’s diverse communities deserve accurate representation, which is only possible if our elected officers have the resources to afford basic, fundamental care.

We appreciate the Secretary of State’s office for bringing this issue forward, and I urge your support on AB79.

Thank you,

Ryan Vortisch

Northern Nevada Democracy Coordinator

Silver State Voices

¹ Rodriguez, B. (2021, November 29). *Most state lawmakers earn low salaries. It impacts who can afford to be one.* The 19th.