

Nevada Faculty Alliance
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American Federation of Teachers
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TO: Assembly Committee on Government Affairs

Meeting on Wednesday, April 23, 2025

FROM: Doug Unger, UNLV Chapter President, Nevada Faculty Alliance, and Vice Chair,
Government Affairs Committee; E-mail: (removed) Phone: (removed)

RE: A.B. 188 SUPPORT

PUBLIC COMMENT – SUPPORT for AB 188

Doug Unger, UNLV Chapter President, Nevada Faculty Alliance. Thank you Chair Considine, Vice Chair Nguyen, and Members of the Committee for your consideration.

At the beginning of this 83rd session, Governor Lombardo and this Legislature celebrated progress in solving critical state employee shortages across agencies with numbers that show shortfalls reduced from around 25% to about 12%. This has been accomplished in part by raising salaries significantly and maintaining stable healthcare benefits. Now state workers, including NSHE faculty and professionals, face mandated increased retirement contributions of 1.75% to a total of 19.25 % of take-home-pay. We face salaries left stagnant after about 6% inflation over two years, probably another 6% or more this next biennium, plus increased health care premiums combined with ever higher costs. Looking ahead to retirement, Medicare only coverage for healthcare—the only available plan—feels now every day more insecure due to unpredictable policies of the new federal regime. A.B. 188 will provide at least something positive to counter-balance this disappointing news—the restoration of a modest PEBP subsidy for retiree healthcare for post-2011 hires once treated like a promise until that promise was taken back as a result of Great Recession budget-cuts. A. B. 188 will help our state hire and retain new employees, and our Higher Education institutions new faculty, professionals and staff. This bill will restore some fairness and equity to state employee retirement. It's the right thing to do. A.B. 188 is at least one small good thing that can help keep up state employee morale and the progress we've been making to restore and maintain our state workforce into the future. Thank you.