



NSEA SUPPORTS SB115

Public Comment to the Assembly Education Committee 5.1.25

The Nevada State Education Association has been the voice of Nevada educators for 125 years. NSEA supports SB115 to allow school districts to provide \$2500 stipends for teachers in bilingual education programs who hold an endorsement in bilingual education.

Over 14% of Nevada students are English learners. Research shows programs of bilingual or multilingual education not only help students learn English more quickly, they also increase student achievement in other subjects, boost graduation rates, and create a bilingual advantage that extends past the education years through an adult's working life. Bilingual or multilingual education programs also are the most culturally competent for most English learners, fostering a climate that values the diverse needs of students.

Unfortunately, there is a severe national shortage of bilingual education teachers, exacerbated by the passage of Prop 227 in California in 1998. California's prohibition on bilingual education for English learners from 1998 to 2016 shattered California's bilingual teacher pipeline, impacting Nevada by proximity. SB115 would be a significant step in building the bilingual education teacher pipeline in Nevada.

As the representative of education support professionals who also work in Nevada's bilingual education programs, NSEA would encourage the legislature to consider the increased responsibilities for these educators. We would support additional incentives and training opportunities for paraprofessionals working in bilingual education classrooms in concert with incentives for teachers they work with closely.

Thank you.