

NAACP
Las Vegas Branch

May 27, 2025

Sen. Melanie Schieble, Chair Senate Judiciary Committee
Nevada Legislature
401 S. Carson St.
Carson City, Nev. 89701

Dear Madam Chair & Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

The NAACP Las Vegas Branch strongly opposes Senate Bill 457. This bill seeks to return us to the misguided era of "tough on crime" policies that devastated communities for decades without improving public safety or addressing the underlying issues that contribute to crime in our neighborhoods.

It's impossible to grasp how damaging SB 457 is without understanding what Nevada accomplished in 2019. AB 236 was a bipartisan success story that proved we could be both smart on crime and fiscally responsible. This carefully crafted legislation was projected to cut prison costs by \$640 million over the next decade while keeping our communities safe.

AB 236 stopped the practice of sending people back to prison for minor technical violations like missing a treatment session or failing to update an address. Instead of wasting taxpayer dollars on unnecessary incarceration, these reforms allowed us to invest in rehabilitation programs and community safety measures that work.

Senate bill 457 would undo significant portions of these proven reforms in favor of more costly, less effective policies. The contrast couldn't be starker: ***AB 236 promised \$640 million in savings through smart justice policies, while SB 457's enhanced penalties and expanded incarceration will cost Nevada taxpayers hundreds of millions more.*** This represents a fundamental shift from investing in our communities to funding mass incarceration.

Current data proves Nevada's approach is succeeding without SB 457's costly reversals. Las Vegas saw violent crimes decrease by 9.93 percent, with sexual assaults down 19.8 percent and robberies down 19.4 percent. Carson City reported significant drops in violent crime, overdoses, and suicides in 2024. Why would we abandon policies that are both saving money and reducing crime?



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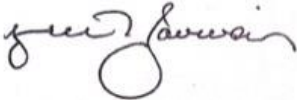


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Senate Bill 457 will disproportionately harm communities of color, reversing our state's hard-won progress toward more equitable justice. The bill's harsh approach to repeat offenders and technical violations will recreate the discriminatory patterns that this Legislature has worked to address.

We urge you to vote NO on SB 457 and preserve Nevada's commitment to smart, cost-effective criminal justice reform that works for all our communities.

In service & solidarity,



Quentin-Michael Savvoir
President, NAACP Las Vegas



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