

(NFA Logo – removed)

(American Federation of Teachers logo – removed)

TO: Senate Committee on Education
Meeting on Wednesday, May 28, 2025

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

RE: Support for AB 416

Doug Unger, UNLV Chapter President, Nevada Faculty Alliance.

One of the gifts of being a citizen of Nevada is that, at least in the contemporary era, we are a live-and-let-live state, committed to pursuing and preserving individual freedoms. It's sad that at the close of the first quarter of the 21st century, we now must fight to preserve First Amendment liberties for students in our schools and the public by passing legislation that guarantees the freedom to read. AB 416 will do this in Nevada, laying out guidelines for Higher Education and restrictions to K-12 schools against the banning of books. The bill also specifies protections in statute for librarians, library administrators, and teachers from misguided individuals and organized groups of ideologues who use tactics of intimidation, job security, even threats of violence to restrict public access to books and publications that don't conform to their political, religious, or social points-of-view, or to erase history. This is happening now in other states—school systems, higher education systems, librarians and teachers are being hounded, doxed, stalked, even threatened with jail, in ways that recall the abuses of mob rule during the Cultural Revolution in Maoist China and the rise of fascism in Italy and Germany last century. I thought the freedom to read in the United States had been assured by Federal and Supreme Court decisions covering many individual books and their authors in the past—not so. The American Library Association cites 2,452 books targeted for bans last year, and the number is growing. AB 416 means to be a loud, clear statement that Nevada stands up for the freedom to read and protects the people who provide access to books. The NFA stands up, too, in strong support. Thank you.