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TO: Assembly Committee on Government Affairs

Meeting on Friday, May 30, 2025

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

RE: **Support for SB 156 – Establishing the Office for Gun Violence Prevention**

**SUPPORT for SB 156 – Establishing the Office for Gun Violence Prevention**

Doug Unger, Nevada Faculty Alliance.

Contrary to what's said in opposition, SB 156 is really a pro-gun ownership bill. The intentions of an Office for Gun Violence Prevention will be to gather data on gun violence and work on initiatives for safer ways to live with and survive our American culture of the gun. Following the December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 mass shooting on the UNLV Campus, I was a designated representative for NSHE to study and report on Campus Safety and gun violence. I had the privilege, last October, to present with three others from the American Federation of Teachers to the then extant White House Office for Gun Violence Prevention. I learned a lot about outreach and education that this kind of office facilitates, which include: using an existing Department of Education letter template to K-12 parents that reminds them of and describes responsibilities for safe gun storage; a school district level initiative for gun awareness and safety classes in K-12 schools (and please see Utah H.B. 498, passed this spring, that does just this—Utah not a state that puts obstacles in the way of gun ownership); an advertising campaign for responsible gun ownership, also that promotes a message that no one should ever reach for a gun in anger; social worker training in gun violence prevention combined with youth community outreach programs such as one ongoing in Richmond, Virginia, that have a documented impact to lower gun violence and deaths by guns. According to the CDC, in 2024, more children in our nation died from gun violence than from any other cause. An Office for Gun Violence Prevention in Nevada can help save lives. The Nevada Faculty Alliance supports.