

TESTIMONY TO SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION



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Chair Taylor and Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

Nevada Policy comes in opposition of SB460. While we recognize that the intent of this legislation is to address long-standing challenges in our education system, we are concerned that many of the bill's provisions undermine transparency, threaten educational pluralism, and divert attention from the most urgent needs facing Nevada students.

One of our foremost concerns is the exemption granted to the newly created School District Oversight Board from the Open Meeting Law. Exempting such a powerful entity from transparency requirements not only erodes public trust but also diminishes accountability in decisions that directly affect students, teachers, and taxpayers. Decisions about local school districts must be made in full view of the public, not behind closed doors. Additionally, this bill imposes excessive testing requirements on private schools participating in the Opportunity Scholarship Program. These requirements not only conflict with the individualized missions of these institutions but risk making private options less viable for families that rely on school choice—especially those from underserved communities.

We are also concerned with the language in Section 22 of the bill that adds "efficiency" as a condition for the approval or renewal of charter school contracts. This vague standard could be used to arbitrarily deny quality schools the opportunity to serve Nevada students—based not on outcomes, but on opaque interpretations of what is "efficient." Combined with new limitations on where and how charter schools can open or expand, SB460 signals a shift away from promoting diverse educational options and toward consolidating control within a system that continues to struggle with academic achievement.

Lastly, while investments in Pre-K education can be valuable, SB460 proposes substantial expansion of early childhood programs at a time when the broader K–12 system is under immense strain. When resources are finite, we believe it is prudent to prioritize solutions that address foundational challenges—such as student achievement, funding and auditing structures, and absenteeism—before expanding into new arenas. We urge this committee to reconsider this sweeping legislation and focus instead on reforms that preserve transparency, respect school choice, and put student outcomes at the forefront. Thank you.

