



United Way of Southern Nevada
5830 W Flamingo Road
Las Vegas, Nevada 89013

December 10, 2018

Dear Interim Finance Committee,

We, the teachers, directors and administrators of Nevada Ready! classrooms in Southern Nevada, in conjunction with United Way of Southern Nevada and University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, are writing to ask for your support to stabilize funding for the Nevada Ready! program and fulfill the commitment made by the State of Nevada to our most vulnerable families and children and early education teachers. By maintaining the state's commitment to funding quality early education and the infrastructure supporting it, you are enabling our organizations to continue providing early education for 1,257 children and maintain professional development training for teachers in Southern Nevada.

Providing access to and increasing the capacity of early childhood seats is just the beginning. To ensure there is equity in the modernization and quality of early childhood centers without traces of inequity from neighborhood to neighborhood, the seats, which service the most vulnerable in our community, benefit from having access to these highly qualified and effective educators. In addition to providing critical funding for scholarships, the Nevada Ready! program is committed to assist with the professional development of early education teachers. A highly-skilled and educated early childhood workforce is crucial to our region's success. Without the appropriate funding from the state, many teachers will not be able to obtain the education necessary to move up the Nevada Registry Early Care and Professional Career Ladder, which will negatively impact the amount of highly trained and qualified individuals in this critical profession for the future of our state.

United Way of Southern Nevada has partnered with the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension to provide comprehensive professional development programs and coaching for Pre-K Teachers in Nevada READY! classrooms throughout the Las Vegas valley. Pre-K Teachers in Nevada READY! classrooms are engaged in participating in Professional Learning Communities, attend monthly training sessions and receive one-on-one coaching from early childhood specialists through the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension.

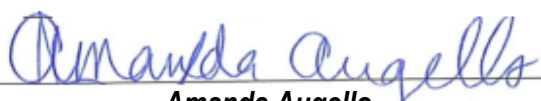
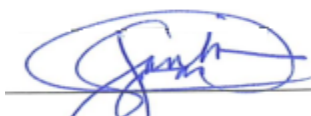
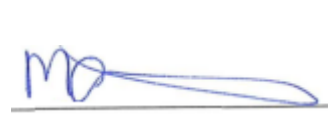
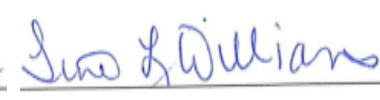
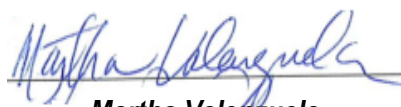
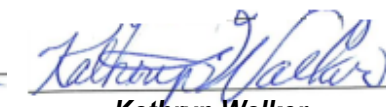
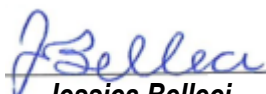
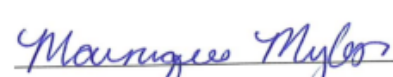
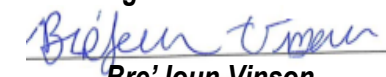
Impacts include:

- Increase in teachers scaffolding and prompting children's thought processes which leads to the development of critical thinking skills in students
- Increase in teachers being responsive to children's needs and providing extra supports and assistance which enhances social-emotional development in students
- Increase in teachers providing children with hands-on science and math experiences which develops problem-solving and reasoning skills in students
- Increase in teachers modeling complex vocabulary and encouraging children to communicate their thoughts and ideas which leads to the development of expressive and receptive language skills in students

The first five years are the prime time for impacting the social and emotional wellbeing of young children. Through intentional, multi-faceted professional development, teachers are learning skills on how to help children self-regulate their emotions, articulate their feelings and build healthy relationships with others. Teachers are setting goals, implementing new strategies, and creating environments and experiences for children that support their social and emotional wellbeing in the classroom.

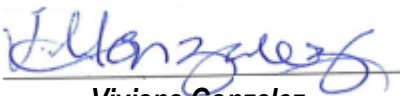
Whether or not Nevada's most vulnerable children and their families will reach their potential depends in large part on our state investment in these programs, and so, once again, we respectfully ask that you maintain the state's original commitment to early childhood education by approving the full matching request of \$4.7 million. The communities most impacted by not fully funding the match are those who live in poverty and are working their way up and engage in workforce training and seeking employment. Fully funding the infrastructure beyond the seats will help ensure a positive future for Nevada's children, families and our entire community.

Sincerely,

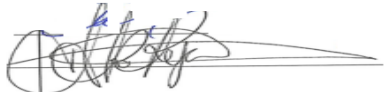

Amanda Augello
Diana Garcia
Janet Martinez
Nikita Hatcher
Joan Sanchilli
Margaret Bourgon
Chelbie Burton
Sheree Horswill
Tina Williams
Ashley Middleton
Estevan Lopez
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Abigail Velasco-Rios
Hilda Vega-Mendoza
Marnique Myles
Bre'Joun Vinson



Wendy Lopes Aispuro



Viviana Gonzalez



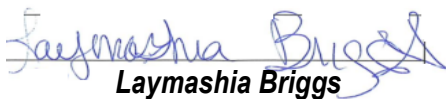
Amalia Patricia Rojas



Rosario Hernandez



Leah Carroll



Laymashia Briggs



Luz Perez



Elicia Miller



Ashlie Hilton



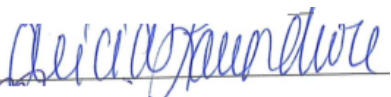
Cecilia Sanchez



Nakeya Walker



Itzel Delgado



Alicia Laverdure



Jessica Kennedy



Nicole Simon



Mirna Velazquez



Lucia Washington



Marisela Estrada



Jennece Black



Karen Estrellado



Nia Spinner



Nicolle Goldstein



Alma Carrillo



Melanie Ellis