

From: [GEE Kristeen](#)
To: [Committee on Education](#)
Subject: School closure and distance learning
Date: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 10:00:23 PM

Good morning Nevada Legislative Committee,

Let me introduce myself, my name is Gaylen Christean, father of four (4) a lifetime resident of 62 years in Nevada. I spent 26 years teaching incarcerated youth and since retiring have volunteered my time helping in the schools. I've also volunteered over 40 years coaching youth activities. My family heritage dates back to the 1800's in Nevada, with my Grandmother (named "Mother of the year for Nevada in 1958) by then Governor Grant Sawyer. My uncle, Dutch Stenovich was a Mayor and businessman, Bud was a businessman, and Bob was Superintendent of the NHP in the late 50's and early 60's.

Please consider the following when making decisions related to Nevada's children and school closures as it relates to the Covid-19 virus, which studies have shown to have a less than 1% death rate. If your not immune compromised, in a nursing home or over 65 your chances are greater.

Suicide and crime among teens with nothing to do other than the confines of their home will become a common occurrence. Understand, **"NOT EVERY HOME IS A SAFE HOME!"** Teen suicide's going to rise, juvenile delinquency is going to rise, teen pregnancy etc. Many kids that are isolated are going to do things to keep themselves active, and a large part of it will be negative.

Taking their teachers, coaches, administration, counselors, friends, etc. away. isn't exactly going to help. What about those with special needs? We have educational members that have dedicated themselves to work with those children. Team sports, gone, no football, no baseball, no softball etc. There is much commraderie in team sports, and to many kids these teams are their family. Just imagine yourself, you have a family of 12, (in many sports even more) and suddenly only you stand, the other 11 die, that's what this isolation does.

I know, with their cell phones, i-pad, and all the electronics, they can communicate. What about those that don't have that luxury, or with unemployment so high, their family can't afford to pay cell phone and/or internet bills. How many are being bullied on social media? Maybe they're being bullied and have nobody to talk to about it! Sorry for anybody that just doesn't get it. To many, this is all they have, they have no structure at home, maybe they aren't safe there, but they have to stay there because our Governor said they have to.

As adults, we might say, "we understand," and yes, maybe we do. You have to remember, they're thought process is operating at a juvenile level, not an adult level. As educators and professionals you should understand this. It's not easy being a child or teenager at any time, let alone being confined for months on end. If Nevadan's lose one (1) child to suicide it's to many, sadly one (1) to Covid is to many also. Isolating our children, in a sense, gives every child a virus, but allowing them school doesn't. Those that resort to the criminal side will most likely be habitual and a burden to society their entire life. When pregnancies rise, you will have children raising children and an additional burden on our government.

Thank you for allowing me the time to share my thoughts, and thank you for your service to Nevada's children. You all have difficult decisions to make. I have faith that you will make a decision based on the best interests of Nevada's children, whether it be in the immediate or weeks down the road.

Respectfully,

Gaylen Christean