

Hello, My name is Dr. Kimberly Vidoni. I am a Mental Health Counselor II at Yerington Rural Clinic, and a member of AFSCME Local 4041. I commend the Committee for its work with AFSCME, thereby, giving state workers their voice.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, I joined tens of thousands of Nevada state employees in ensuring that public services continue. In my job, I provide frontline mental health services to rural Nevadans. As our state begins this road to recovery, now is the time to investigate alternatives to furloughs and layoffs that inflict more harm on our communities by cutting services. I suggest offering voluntary early separation options to state workers as many Nevada school districts do. Such options extend PERS benefits to top-paid workers who wish to leave state service to grow Nevada's economy in innovative ways, making way for younger workers who bring fresh ideas to state service. Thank you for your consideration, and for your leadership in these most difficult times.