

**Harry Schiffman**

**Henderson, NV**

Hello, my name is Harry Schiffman, I am an electrician for the state of Nevada and president of AFSCME Local 4041.

When the COVID-19 crisis hit Nevada, state workers stood tall. Manning the front lines we continued to provide the essential services needed by the communities we served. Working from our own homes, often using our own personal resources such as cell phones, laptops, internet, etc. We sanitized our work sites, maintained buildings, grounds and roads, and kept those in our prisons and mental health facilities safe. We kept the infrastructure and operations of public services running because it was important to keep our state going. As state workers, we know our jobs best and we feel that we can offer solutions to our current budget crisis. But we cannot offer these solutions if the Governor will not open dialogue and sit down and negotiate with us.

State workers have won the right to collectively bargain when SB135 became law. We have certified many of our bargaining units. AFSCME L4041 is the exclusive representative of over 6,000 state workers across 4 bargaining units, and we are actively organizing in 4 other bargaining units.

Mr. Governor and members of the committee, state workers are not saying, “not us, choose someone else.” State workers have always been a part of the solution and we want to play our part now. State workers feel we have solutions and suggestions to help with the budget crisis, and under collective bargain rights, we now have the right to negotiate over any changes to our working conditions. We demand to be allowed to use our rights.

I am respectfully asking as a state worker and in my role as the President of AFSCME Local 4041 for the Governor to sit down and bargain with us.