

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 12, 2020
MEETING OF THE
INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chair Maggie Carlton called a special meeting of the Interim Finance Committee (IFC) to order at 9:46 a.m. on June 12, 2020, via videoconference. There was no physical location for the meeting pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Directive 006.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Chair
Senator Joyce Woodhouse, Vice Chair
Senator Chris Brooks
Senator Yvanna Cancela
Senator Moises Denis
Senator Pete Goicoechea
Senator Ben Kieckhefer
Senator David Parks
Senator James Settelmeyer
Assemblywoman Shea Backus
Assemblywoman Teresa Benitez-Thompson
Assemblyman Jason Frierson
Assemblyman John Hambrick
Assemblywoman Sandra Jauregui
Assemblyman Al Kramer
Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno
Assemblywoman Connie Munk
Assemblywoman Dina Neal
Assemblywoman Ellen Spiegel
Assemblywoman Heidi Swank
Assemblywoman Robin Titus
Assemblywoman Jill Tolles for Assemblyman Wheeler

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Assemblyman Jim Wheeler

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL BUREAU STAFF PRESENT:

Brenda Erdoes, Director, Legislative Counsel Bureau
Cindy Jones, Fiscal Analyst, Assembly
Mark Krmpotic, Fiscal Analyst, Senate
Sarah Coffman, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Alex Haartz, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst
Eileen O'Grady, Chief Deputy Legislative Counsel
Cheryl Harvey, Fiscal Analysis Division Secretary
Becky Lowe, Fiscal Analysis Division Secretary

EXHIBITS:

- [\(Exhibit A\)](#): Meeting Packet
- [\(Exhibit B-1\)](#): Public Comment – John Villardita, Clark County Education Association
- [\(Exhibit B-2\)](#): Public Comment – Erin Phillips, Power2Parent
- [\(Exhibit B-3\)](#): Public Comment – Hergit “Coco” Llenas, Latino Outreach Director, Nevada School Choice Coalition
- [\(Exhibit B-4\)](#): Public Comment – Harry Schiffman, Electrician, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- [\(Exhibit B-5\)](#): Public Comment – Valeria Gurr, State Director, Nevada School Choice Coalition
- [\(Exhibit B-6\)](#): Public Comment – Autumn Tampa
- [\(Exhibit B-7\)](#): Public Comment – Jenn Blackhurst, HOPE for Nevada
- [\(Exhibit B-8\)](#): Public Comment – Donna Healy, Executive Board Representative, NSHE
- [\(Exhibit B-9\)](#): Public Comment – Marcos Lopez, Government & Policy Liaison, Americans for Prosperity Nevada
- [\(Exhibit B-10\)](#): Public Comment – Travis Smaka, State Trooper, Nevada Highway Patrol, Department of Public Safety (DPS)
- [\(Exhibit B-11\)](#): Public Comment – Cordelia Alexander-Leeder
- [\(Exhibit B-12\)](#): Public Comment – Dr. Kimberly Vidoni, Mental Health Counselor, Yerington Rural Clinic
- [\(Exhibit B-13\)](#): Public Comment – Anne Cory, Grants Director, Community Health Alliance
- [\(Exhibit B-14\)](#): Public Comment – Daphne Deleon, President, AFSCME Local 4041, Washoe Chapter
- [\(Exhibit B-15\)](#): Public Comment – Elise Mihali
- [\(Exhibit B-16\)](#): Public Comment – Erik Schoen, Executive Director, Community Chest, Inc.
- [\(Exhibit B-17\)](#): Public Comment – Michelle Badten
- [\(Exhibit B-18\)](#): Public Comment – Jayme Ames
- [\(Exhibit B-19\)](#): Public Comment – Becky Mathes
- [\(Exhibit B-20\)](#): Public Comment – Mike Bradford
- [\(Exhibit B-21\)](#): Public Comment – Scott Brickey
- [\(Exhibit B-22\)](#): Public Comment – Kirstin N. Clifford
- [\(Exhibit B-23\)](#): Public Comment – Michael Conely, Retired State Trooper, and Lillian Conely
- [\(Exhibit B-24\)](#): Public Comment – Robert Conely, Nevada Highway Patrol, DPS
- [\(Exhibit B-25\)](#): Public Comment – Melinda Cowan, Game Warden, Department of Wildlife
- [\(Exhibit B-26\)](#): Public Comment – O’Niel Cueto
- [\(Exhibit B-27\)](#): Public Comment – Solon J. Davenport, State Trooper, Nevada Highway Patrol, DPS
- [\(Exhibit B-28\)](#): Public Comment – Will Dawson
- [\(Exhibit B-29\)](#): Public Comment – Matt Deck
- [\(Exhibit B-30\)](#): Public Comment – Hannah DeGoey
- [\(Exhibit B-31\)](#): Public Comment – Wayne Dice
- [\(Exhibit B-32\)](#): Public Comment – Heather Digesti
- [\(Exhibit B-33\)](#): Public Comment – Dimitri
- [\(Exhibit B-34\)](#): Public Comment – Brian Eby
- [\(Exhibit B-35\)](#): Public Comment – Clifford Fontaine, State Trooper, Nevada Highway Patrol, DPS

[\(Exhibit B-36\)](#): Public Comment – John Torrise
[\(Exhibit B-37\)](#): Public Comment – C. Garcia
[\(Exhibit B-38\)](#): Public Comment – Brian Goodwin
[\(Exhibit B-39\)](#): Public Comment – Keiko Guthrie
[\(Exhibit B-40\)](#): Public Comment – Megan Kaplan
[\(Exhibit B-41\)](#): Public Comment – Bert Kirk, State Trooper, Nevada Highway Patrol, DPS
[\(Exhibit B-42\)](#): Public Comment – Amber Koski
[\(Exhibit B-43\)](#): Public Comment – Lindsay Diamond
[\(Exhibit B-44\)](#): Public Comment – Meghan Madrigan
[\(Exhibit B-45\)](#): Public Comment – Maibarra
[\(Exhibit B-46\)](#): Public Comment – Darren May, State Trooper, Nevada Highway Patrol, DPS
[\(Exhibit B-47\)](#): Public Comment – T.L. Miller
[\(Exhibit B-48\)](#): Public Comment – Morene Monks
[\(Exhibit B-49\)](#): Public Comment – Neil Morgon
[\(Exhibit B-50\)](#): Public Comment – Joseph Neely, State Trooper, Nevada Highway Patrol, DPS
[\(Exhibit B-51\)](#): Public Comment – Robby Nivarel
[\(Exhibit B-52\)](#): Public Comment – Aaron Pringle
[\(Exhibit B-53\)](#): Public Comment – Wayne Prosser
[\(Exhibit B-54\)](#): Public Comment – Anna Rowley
[\(Exhibit B-55\)](#): Public Comment – Scott Scrivner
[\(Exhibit B-56\)](#): Public Comment – Amy Shelton, Dispatcher, DPS
[\(Exhibit B-57\)](#): Public Comment – Tommy van Oeveren
[\(Exhibit B-58\)](#): Public Comment – Mark Smith
[\(Exhibit B-59\)](#): Public Comment – Chris Walther, Game Warden, Department of Wildlife
[\(Exhibit B-60\)](#): Public Comment – Allen Wooldridge, Division of State Parks, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
[\(Exhibit B-61\)](#): Public Comment – Jensen
[\(Exhibit B-62\)](#): Public Comment – Kelly Grondahl, Principal, Vegas Verdes Elementary School, Las Vegas, Nevada
[\(Exhibit B-63\)](#): Public Comment – Elias Blood
[\(Exhibit B-64\)](#): Public Comment – Natalie Godinez
[\(Exhibit B-65\)](#): Public Comment – Olivia Leeder
[\(Exhibit B-66\)](#): Public Comment – Clara Maxam
[\(Exhibit B-67\)](#): Public Comment – Kaitlin Moore
[\(Exhibit B-68\)](#): Public Comment – Dawn K. Murphy
[\(Exhibit B-69\)](#): Public Comment – Paula Alexander-Leeder
[\(Exhibit B-70\)](#): Public Comment – Jayde Reid
[\(Exhibit B-71\)](#): Public Comment – Erica Ruud
[\(Exhibit B-72\)](#): Public Comment – Allison Schleicher, MPH
[\(Exhibit B-73\)](#): Public Comment – Mirelle Zamudio
[\(Exhibit B-74\)](#): Public Comment – Ybarra
[\(Exhibit B-75\)](#): Public Comment – Robert Sinclair
[\(Exhibit B-76\)](#): Public Comment – Steve Zuelke, Retired Unemployment Insurance Manager, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation

- [\(Exhibit B-77\)](#): Public Comment – Alex Knaak
[\(Exhibit B-78\)](#): Public Comment – NancyAnn Leeder
[\(Exhibit C\)](#): State General Fund Revenues: FY 2019 Actual and FY 2020 Forecast, Before Tax Credits
[\(Exhibit D\)](#): General Fund Revenues – Actuals FY 2016 through FY 2019 and FY 2020 versus FY 2019 Year-to-Date through May 2020
[\(Exhibit E\)](#): FY 2020 YTD and March 2020 Taxable Sales by NAICS – Statewide
[\(Exhibit F\)](#): FY 2020 YTD and March 2020 Taxable Sales by NAICS – Clark County
[\(Exhibit G\)](#): FY 2020 YTD and March 2020 Taxable Sales by NAICS – Washoe County

A. ROLL CALL.

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB), called the roll; all members were present, except for Assemblyman Wheeler who was excused. Assemblyman Hambrick joined the meeting in progress.

Chair Carlton announced that due to the virtual setting of the meeting, a roll call vote would be taken for Agenda Item E to ensure the vote was recorded correctly. She requested that Committee members keep their cameras turned on as much as possible for the entirety of the meeting.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Directive 006, there was no physical location for the June 12, 2020, meeting of the Interim Finance Committee. The meeting was broadcast on the Nevada Legislative website at www.leg.state.nv.us. Public comment was accepted live via telephone. Written comments were also accepted by e-mail, facsimile, and mail before, during, and after the meeting.

Alonzo Thornton, Psychiatric Nurse, Desert Regional Center (DRC), Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), said the DRC was a residential center for severely disabled adults. The DRC staff assisted some of the most vulnerable Nevadans with basic tasks, such as hygiene and eating. Mr. Thornton stated that the DRC was an essential service during the pandemic and staff remained committed to the residents.

Mr. Thornton said his work could be dangerous at times due to the intimate nature of the duties and the unpredictability of residents. He said the residents had bad days like everyone else; however, they had grown to trust and rely on staff to provide care with the respect they deserved. He noted that the trust between DRC residents and their caregivers was essential to their well-being and development.

Mr. Thornton said Nevada was just beginning the economic recovery process. He did not think it was appropriate to inflict more harm on vulnerable citizens by reducing services, furloughing workers or laying off staff. He said DRC staff knew how to serve the residents

best, and as such, staff deserved to have a say about potential budget cuts, especially amid changing safety regulations.

Cameron Hopkins, Mental Health Counselor, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), DHHS, and member of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 4041, said, as a mental health counselor, he helped parents develop structures to improve their home life and care for their children. He provided training for parents recently reunified with their children, to create a safe and stable home. He said those families depended on him to help rebuild their home lives, even during a global pandemic.

Mr. Hopkins said thousands of state employees continued to work alternative schedules, which included working from home and providing services remotely. He said many state employees already worked with a meager budget, and further cuts would make it even more difficult to care for the most vulnerable Nevadans.

Mr. Hopkins said reducing state services, as well as employees who had continued to support the community during these challenging times, would put Nevada families at risk. State employees knew what was required to help families move forward. Thus, the state workforce demanded to be heard as departments made decisions about cuts to services and staff.

John Villardita, Executive Director, Clark County Education Association (CCEA), said he represented 18,000 educators in the Clark County School District. He understood the Committee was facing difficult decisions; however, the CCEA did not think that budget cuts alone would resolve the issue. Instead, the state needed to discuss new revenue sources or consider restructuring existing revenue sources. The CCEA would go a step further by suggesting that now was the time to build a new state economy that did not rely on two industries and revenue streams. Mr. Villardita said devastating education funding would significantly hinder Nevada schools. Cuts to education and other important budgets was another reason it was important to consider rebuilding the state's economy.

Mr. Villardita indicated that the economic downturn was manufactured by unemployment resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. He recalled the recent Economic Forum report, which indicated that growth would be difficult to predict. The economic impact had been significant; however, he thought signs of recovery would be evident immediately after the economy reopened, although not to the extent of pre-pandemic levels. Mr. Villardita thought budget cuts required a surgical and time-sensitive approach; therefore, he thought the state should consider budget cuts and adjustments in real-time given the unusual nature of the economic downturn.

Mr. Villardita submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-1](#)).

Erin Phillips, Power2Parent, said she represented parents across the state. The goal of Power2Parent was to empower parents to advocate for their children, because the importance of education in the lives of children was unparalleled. Ms. Phillips said the

COVID-19 pandemic had and would continue to devastate children and families; many of those effects were yet to be seen or discovered.

Ms. Phillips understood the Committee had to make difficult decisions and budget cuts. She echoed Mr. Villardita's sentiments that it would be difficult to determine how quickly the state's economy would recover. She asked the Committee to consider the fact that cuts to education would impact many other areas of life for Nevadans, and would ultimately cost the state much more. Ms. Phillips said the National Center for Children in Poverty found that the less education a child received, the more likely they would end up impoverished and entrenched in the cycle of poverty, which would further tax the state's welfare system. Not investing in education would affect the mental and physical health of students and families; further tax the justice system and social services; add to inequality; and hinder the overall success of the economy. Ms. Phillips said Nevada must be able to adjust and grow with the changing economy, and avoid cutting from the state's most valuable resource, the children.

Ms. Phillips submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-2](#)).

Hergit "Coco" Llenas, Latino Outreach Director, Nevada School Choice Coalition, said she had been a resident of Las Vegas since 1998. During that time, Nevada had experienced three major crises – 9/11, the Great Recession and most recently, the COVID-19 pandemic. As in the past, Nevada's leadership was proposing budget cuts in response to an economic downturn. The profound cuts made to education in the past were detrimental to Nevada schools and student outcomes, which is why she was addressing the Committee as a concerned constituent, community organizer, and member of a coalition of empowered parents to respectfully ask the Committee to take a different approach. Ms. Llenas challenged the Committee to avoid budget cuts and instead, find innovative ways of increasing revenue to address the shortfall. She urged the Committee to find ways to replenish funds without diminishing services and programs that were needed by Nevadans.

Continuing, Ms. Llenas stated that Nevada needed to diversify its economy and create a new economy, which would require a better education system. One could not exist without the other. She did not think the state should cut education funding every time there was a budget shortfall. Ms. Llenas encouraged the Committee to consider a different strategy and rebuild the state's education system by maintaining and further investing in the education of Nevada's children.

Ms. Llenas submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-3](#)).

Shamond Price, Highway Equipment Mechanic, Nevada Department of Transportation, and member of AFSCME Local 4041, said his work as a highway equipment mechanic was highly specialized and technical. He brought a wealth of skill and knowledge to the position, all to the benefit of the community. Mr. Price said public service was important to him because he was making a difference in the community, and for that he was proud.

Mr. Price said he had continued to work during the pandemic, because traffic and road maintenance was ongoing. As the state began the process of economic recovery, it was not the appropriate time to inflict more harm on communities by cutting services or laying off staff. He noted that Nevada still had one of the highest rates of unemployment in the nation. Laying off state employees or implementing furloughs would only add to those numbers, and it would put the state further behind on the road to recovery. Mr. Price said he joined thousands of other state employees who demanded to be included in discussions concerning their working conditions.

Detelin Georgiev, Correctional Officer, High Desert State Prison, Nevada Department of Corrections (NDOC), and member of AFSCME Local 4041, said NDOC staff had maintained the safety of Nevada communities by reporting for duty during the pandemic. He said during these challenging times, NDOC staff put their health at risk to ensure the continued daily operations of state prisons. Mr. Georgiev said NDOC staff proudly served during the pandemic; they did not deserve furloughs, pay cuts or layoffs. He noted that the NDOC was already severely understaffed. Cuts to hours or pay would only increase the risks to staff and inmates.

Mr. Georgiev urged the Committee to strongly consider closing loopholes in revenue, because regular Nevadans should not be the only ones paying their fair share of taxes. He said state employees were ready to be part of the conversation about finding solutions to the state's fiscal crisis.

Harry Schiffman, Electrician, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and President of AFSCME Local 4041, said AFSCME Local 4041 represented state employees as well as employees of Storey County and the City of West Wendover. During the pandemic, public service workers across the state had continued to serve their communities. Frontline public service workers put their lives at risk every day to avoid a disruption in services. Health care workers, correctional officers, sanitation workers, and other public service workers were essential to strengthening the economy and helping Nevadans return to normalcy, neither of which could be accomplished with mandated furloughs.

Mr. Schiffman said communities needed public service workers, because they sought solutions and provided hope. He said state employees knew their jobs best. They were prepared to be part of the solution and help the state navigate through tough choices.

Mr. Schiffman said Nevada communities and state employees could not endure another round of devastating cuts to public services like ten years ago. He said state employees were a target whenever the state experienced a financial crisis, but now they demanded to be included in the discussions. State employees wanted their voices to be heard.

Mr. Schiffman submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-4](#)).

Eddie Ableser, on behalf of the Nevada Police Union, said the Nevada Police Union represented over 500 category 1 public safety officers in four separate divisions

throughout Nevada. He noted that the Nevada Police Union was recently acknowledged and identified as the exclusive collective bargaining unit for category 1 law enforcement. He added that the Nevada Police Union was currently in discussions with the Department of Administration about that collective bargaining agreement.

Mr. Ableser said the Nevada Police Union was concerned about the recent statement from the Governor indicating widespread cuts throughout state agencies, which may affect essential services and safety workers in the community. During the COVID-19 pandemic, while many state employees worked from home, public safety officers continued to patrol the streets and protect communities, all the while being exposed to a variety of issues throughout Nevada. Mr. Ableser urged the Committee to consider excluding public safety officers from mandatory furloughs.

Pamela Goynes-Brown, Councilwoman, City of North Las Vegas, thanked the Committee for its tireless efforts. She appreciated the difficult task the Committee faced as it led Nevada through the economic crisis created by COVID-19.

Ms. Goynes-Brown discussed the Governor's announcement about the distribution of CARES Act funds to local governments to assist with COVID-19 related expenses. She said the Governor's proposal provided direct allocations to every city in Nevada, except cities in Southern Nevada. As a councilwoman in one of the largest minority/majority cities in the country, she thought it was outrageous to exclude the state's largest communities of color from receiving federal Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF). Ms. Goynes-Brown asked that the state adhere to the law as well as U.S. Treasury guidelines concerning the allocation of CARES Act funding. She said local governments with populations under 500,000 were not eligible for direct payments from the U.S. Treasury; however, U.S. Treasury guidelines suggested that states distribute 45% of CARES Act funding to local governments with populations of 500,000 or less. Ms. Goynes-Brown thought it was unfair to provide CRF to counties without a single confirmed case of COVID-19 while withholding relief from other communities. She thought that was inequitable to minority-owned businesses as well as underserved communities awakened by the national conversation of justice and demand for equal treatment. Ms. Goynes-Brown said it was easy to talk about supporting allegiance, but it should be followed with action.

Continuing, Ms. Goynes-Brown said historic inequalities were the reason that residents in the City of North Las Vegas were disproportionately devastated by COVID-19. She said North Las Vegas had the second highest incident rate of infection in Nevada after Las Vegas, which received \$119.0 million in direct funding. She stated that COVID-19 disproportionately impacted African Americans. In fact, 66% of deaths in the City of North Las Vegas during the peak of the pandemic were among African Americans, which was a staggering statistic. She noted the death rate in North Las Vegas was among the highest of any African American population in the United States. It was also the reason some Committee members had worked with the City of North Las Vegas to establish one of the first testing sites in the state.

Ms. Goynes-Brown said, no matter how inequality was disguised, the systematic pillaging among the most vulnerable populations must stop. She said the North Las Vegas community would not accept unequal treatment. It was time to remove the knee of oppression. Ms. Goynes-Brown implored the Committee to ensure that all cities were treated equally. She also urged the Committee to follow the lead of other states that had allocated funds equally to cities located within counties that had received direct funds. She said the Governor and Legislature should work together to distribute the money as Congress intended, and in participation with local governments that were on the frontlines dutifully enforcing the Governor's directive.

Jim Frazee, Teacher, Clark County School District, and Vice President-elect, CCEA, said the CCEA opposed massive cuts to education funding. He said the state needed to stop the "one step forward, two steps back" approach to education funding, a cornerstone of Nevada's economy and society. When making budget cuts, it was tempting to take from the largest line item; however, that was a dangerous move when it related to public education and systematic underfunding. Nevada could not afford to be shortsighted. Like many Nevada families that were facing a budget crisis, the state must prioritize. In Clark County, where almost three-quarters of Nevada's students were educated, there were over 1,870 job openings for licensed professionals. That meant thousands of students, mostly students of color, would not have a licensed educator in the classroom in the fall of 2020. Hundreds of other educators in Clark County were deciding whether to remain in Nevada. Mr. Frazee said massive cuts to education would drive highly qualified educators out of Nevada for good, and they would be difficult to replace.

Mr. Frazee said it was time to think beyond cuts and look for a new revenue source with which to address the budget shortfall. He said a new revenue source would also address the inadequacies of the state's public education system. Mr. Frazee said a robust and vibrant public education system was the only way to rebuild and broaden Nevada's economy.

Stephanie Dube, Custodial Worker, Desert Willow Treatment Center (DWTC), DCFS, DHHS, and member of AFSCME Local 4041, said the DWTC was an in-patient psychiatric treatment center for youth in Southern Nevada. She said it was vital for the health and well-being of patients that the DWTC remain open during the pandemic. As a frontline worker, Ms. Dube had continued her duties to ensure that the young patients at the DWTC received treatment in a safe and clean environment. Thousands of public service workers across the state had also continued to work during these challenging times, putting their lives on the line to ensure communities remained safe and healthy. Ms. Dube noted that custodial workers were especially critical to slowing the spread of COVID-19 by implementing additional cleaning measures at hospitals, clinics, schools and offices. She said public service workers would continue to do their part, because without them, Nevada could not move forward. Ms. Dube stated that Nevada could not overcome the pandemic, and reopen and rebuild if public service workers were laid off or furloughed.

Valeria Gurr, State Director, Nevada School Choice Coalition, said she understood the COVID-19 crisis had not been easy for the state; however, cutting education funding and programs should be the last resort. In working with parents over the past few months, Ms. Gurr had seen how the digital divide further impacted communities that needed increased access to a quality education. She said there were many other factors that contributed to the digital divide, not just the lack of a device or internet access. Other contributing factors included parents' unfamiliarity with the system utilized within the school district as well as language barriers.

Ms. Gurr said the state needed to continue investing and rebuilding Nevada's education system. She was proud of the investment in education that occurred during the 2019 Legislative Session. Cuts to education would reverse the state's efforts to reduce existing disparities in Nevada. She said the most vulnerable communities, which were already struggling in their schools, would be heavily impacted by cuts to education.

Ms. Gurr said, over the last few weeks, communities had been calling for change by state leadership. She was hopeful that state leaders would think about the disparities and injustice within the K-12 system when addressing social and racial injustice, because changes were needed in Nevada. She said quality education should be available to everyone, not just the wealthy and well-connected. Nevada needed to create an education system that addressed disparities, and cutting education funding was not the right answer. Ms. Gurr said Nevada needed to invest in students and seek new revenue sources. She urged the Committee to consider the most vulnerable communities, and think about investing in and rebuilding the state's education system.

Ms. Gurr submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-5](#)).

Angela Longman, Developmental Support Technician, Desert Regional Center (DRC), DPBH, DHHS, and member of AFSCME Local 4041, said DRC staff had continued to work during the pandemic. She said DRC staff worked with a vulnerable population teaching basic needs, such as hygiene and cooking. She thought DRC residents deserved to be treated with dignity and respect like any other Nevadan. Furloughs and budget cuts would be detrimental to the residents. She indicated that the DRC was already understaffed and many cuts had been implemented. Ms. Longman said state employees wanted to be included in discussions related to cuts and furloughs.

Barry Gold, Director of Government Relations, AARP Nevada, remarked that Nevada was experiencing difficult times, which called for difficult decisions. He said some of those decisions would impact many people within the state. Mr. Gold said he had spoken with the Department of Health and Human Services, Aging and Disability Services Division (ADSD) about prospective budget cuts. He thought it was important for the ADSD to be in agreement about the need to protect the state's most vulnerable citizens.

Mr. Gold noted that he recently had an opportunity to speak with Senator Catherine Cortez Masto during a Latin Chamber of Commerce tele-town hall. He asked Senator Cortez Masto about the possibility of additional federal funding to help state,

local and rural governments during the current crisis. He said Senator Cortez Masto indicated that follow-up legislation to the CARES Act was a priority and would assist with non-COVID-19 related costs. Senator Cortez Masto was unsure when the new legislation would pass and how much money would be included; however, she did not think it would be as much as the amount included in the CARES Act. Mr. Gold said the state needed to continue making difficult decisions until the additional funding was provided. He hoped the Legislature, the Office of the Governor, and state agencies would work together to protect the most vulnerable people in the state.

Chris Daly, Nevada State Education Association (NSEA), said on June 9, 2020, Governor Sisolak released his plan to address the \$812.0 million budget shortfall in FY 2020. Included in that shortfall was \$265.0 million in local revenue to the Distributive School Account (DSA). Although the official FY 2021 impact had not been announced, he indicated that projections by Applied Analysis and others estimated the shortfall at approximately \$1.0 billion. As such, Nevada was facing the most severe budget crisis in state history.

Mr. Daly said, prior to the pandemic, Nevada's public schools were chronically underfunded with the most crowded classrooms in the country. As the state began to reopen schools, the districts would have new expenses related to the implementation of health and safety guidelines. Cuts to public education would compromise the ability to reopen schools safely, jeopardizing the safety of students, educators and communities.

Mr. Daly remarked that public education was the great equalizer. Although Nevada had made significant efforts in recent years to increase education equity, the move to distance learning heightened inequities, especially for students with Individualized Education Programs, English learners, and at-risk students. He said in-person, one-on-one instruction could not be replaced, especially with the shortcomings related to distance learning and reaching all students.

Continuing, Mr. Daly said Nevada needed to remain focused on improving education equity, which meant continued investment in special education as well as effective models for English learners and at-risk students, like Zoom and Victory schools. In the meantime, during a pandemic, which has caused significant disruption, successful reopening of public schools must include meeting the social and emotional needs of students and educators.

Mr. Daly said the state's approach to revenue in the past had been insufficient, and it would continue to be insufficient in the post-COVID-19 world. Defunding public education without a plan for new revenue was not an acceptable answer. Thus, the NSEA requested that any FY 2021 balancing plan include at least \$1 of new revenue for every \$1 cut from public education. The NSEA recognized that everyone was being called to share in the sacrifice for Nevada. Mr. Daly hoped the sacrifice did not restrict the resources that were necessary to reopen schools safely, and that it would heed the call for justice to increase equity for the most vulnerable students.

Stephanie Parker, Grants and Projects Analyst, Division of Emergency Management, Department of Public Safety (DPS), and member of AFSCME Local 4041, said she managed federal grants for local emergency management and responses. In the current state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, communities looked to public services to maintain normalcy. Many state employees, including Ms. Parker, had taken to makeshift home offices to ensure the work continued, so that communities had the necessary resources to fight the pandemic. State employees found alternate methods of providing services, because Nevada could not fight the pandemic or reopen the economy without strong public services and public service workers to deliver critical services. With cuts to the state budget, services like road maintenance, corrections, public safety, child welfare and health care were in jeopardy. Ensuring the continuation of those services meant roads were repaired and health care remained accessible. Instead of cutting services or staff, Ms. Parker thought Nevada should consider closing tax loopholes and eliminating special incentives.

Ms. Parker said Nevada continued to have one of the highest rates of unemployment in the nation. Laying off or furloughing state employees would only increase that number, which would delay the state's recovery. Ms. Parker said any changes to working conditions or the lives of state employees must include input from the employees themselves. She said state employees were on the frontlines supporting their communities through the recovery process. She was confident the expertise and experience of state employees made them formidable partners in addressing the state's current fiscal emergency on the road to building resiliency. Ms. Parker reiterated that any changes to the working conditions or lives of state employees must include input from all stakeholders, which included state employees.

Autumn Tampa said, as an employee of the Clark County School District (CCSD), she echoed the sentiments expressed by fellow education advocates. As long as she could remember, there had been serious issues and concerns in Nevada about education and related funding. She said the level of education funding in the state did not adequately meet the needs of students. Ms. Tampa said unfunded mandates were included in the reorganization bill, which damaged the CCSD's ability to address the needs of its most vulnerable students, including special education students and English learners. She said COVID-19 had increased that gap.

Ms. Tampa said she was uncertain how the State of Nevada planned to balance the budget; however, she noted that education was already underfunded year after year, and the pandemic had only amplified the problem. She expressed concern about safely reopening schools if education funding was reduced.

Ms. Tampa urged the Committee to ensure that all schools in Nevada had adequate funding to meet the needs of every student as well as enough funding to reopen schools safely. Where Nevada invested its funds was a direct reflection of what it valued as a state. She asked the Committee to show that it valued education by ensuring that schools were funded adequately.

Ms. Tampa provided written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-6](#)).

Jenn Blackhurst, representing HOPE for Nevada, a nonprofit advocacy organization focused on public education, said she did not envy the decisions that had to be made during this unprecedented time in state history. She understood there were numerous competing interests to consider, especially as evidenced by today's public comments; however, she implored the Committee to carefully consider its strategy, because there would be enduring repercussions for years to come.

Ms. Blackhurst said, although the current economic climate appeared similar to those in the past, the pandemic and forced economic stranglehold that created the downturn were unique from past recessions. She hoped the Committee would strive to find an innovative solution since previous models did not fit the current situation. She said the architecture and engineering required to build a resilient economy required a strong, robust public education system. Cutting funding to school districts that were already handicapped only led the state in the wrong direction and weakened an impaired system.

Ms. Blackhurst said HOPE for Nevada did not support any cuts to education. Before resorting to that option, which furthered abysmal test scores, overcrowded classrooms and beleaguered teaching professionals, she urged the Committee to truly reflect on the impact of such an action and consider other solutions. Ms. Blackhurst asked the Committee not to cut funding to education without showing Nevadans a plan to alleviate the issue in the long term.

Ms. Blackhurst provided written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-7](#)).

Rebecca Garcia, President, Nevada Parent Teachers Association (PTA), said the state and the nation were experiencing unprecedented challenges in response to the public health crisis, and difficult choices had to be made to address the resulting budget shortfall. The Nevada PTA requested that those decisions be made with the long-term needs of the state in mind.

As Nevada moved from response to recovery, Ms. Garcia thought it was essential to protect public education for the future of the children and the state. She said education was critical to the economic future of Nevada. As schools progressed toward reopening, the needs of students and schools were greater, not less. Schools must have the necessary resources to address academic gaps as well as the social, emotional and safety concerns of students and staff. In a time of required physical distancing, Nevada led the nation in class size. She said the pandemic had highlighted disparities and inequities that existed in communities and schools. Those disparities were evident in areas such as technology, connectivity and food insecurity.

Continuing, Ms. Garcia said more resources were required for teachers, social workers and supportive services in schools to address systematic inequities. Goals to close opportunity gaps and implement restorative justice practices were not feasible without resources and funding. Cuts impacting Nevada's children and families at a time of great

need would yield devastating consequences, often impacting the most vulnerable and already disadvantaged citizens. The Nevada PTA urged the Committee to protect resources and services that children needed now more than ever.

Ms. Garcia stated that the Great Recession led to education funding cuts that could still be felt. Nevada could not continue to compound those challenges and expect students to succeed. The Nevada PTA believed a sustained commitment to public education was critical to ensuring the state's obligation to all students as well as strengthening the economy. Investing in Nevada's children was an investment in both the current and future economic well-being of the state. Ms. Garcia thanked the Committee for its time and consideration during such a difficult time.

Gary Sallee, Safety Trainer, Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT), and member of AFSCME Local 4041, said safety had always been a top priority in his line of work. During the pandemic, he worked with NDOT leaders across the state to implement new procedures to ensure that employees could safely continue providing essential road and public facility maintenance.

As a public health emergency turned into a fiscal emergency, Mr. Sallee said it was important for Nevada to continue to prioritize the health and safety of state workers and the public. He said cuts to public services, including highway and public facility maintenance, put communities at risk. Skilled and dedicated public service workers were necessary to keep roads and public facilities maintained and safe. Mr. Sallee said state employees deserved to have a say about changes in their working conditions, because they knew their jobs best and could make a difference during the state's fiscal crisis.

Brad Keating, CCSD, recalled a recent CCSD Board of School Trustees meeting where the district superintendent had provided information to the board. Although the current IFC agenda related to FY 2020 cuts, Mr. Keating thought it was important for the CCSD to know how much funding would be available for FY 2021 to reopen schools safely. The longer the delay, the less time the district would have to act. To exacerbate the situation further, the contractual obligations of administrators and principals ended on June 19, 2020, and they would not return to duty until July 22, 2020. If the CCSD was not provided the necessary information to work and plan now, the district would only have two weeks to make changes to staffing levels and master schedules, provide professional development to staff, and prepare for students. Mr. Keating said reopening plans were meaningless without knowing how much financial resources would be available. Unless resolved by next week, the start of the 2020-2021 school year may be delayed to avoid massive changes once students were back in school.

Mr. Keating understood the decisions before the Committee were not easy; however, time was running out. He urged the Committee to help the CCSD in working with the Office of the Governor to provide a plan for FY 2021 to reopen schools properly.

Donna Healy, Executive Board Representative, Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Classified Council, said following a notification by the Board of Regents to NSHE Business Officers regarding the state's plan to furlough all classified employees for 12 days per year, the council formulated a resolution and submitted it to the Office of the Governor and the LCB on June 5, 2020. While the current budget crisis was a rightful cause for concern, so too was the livelihood of classified employees statewide. While she understood that furloughs may be the only way forward, it would be another hardship for classified employees who sacrificed income between 2010 and 2016 due to furloughs, pay cuts, frozen merit increases, lack of cost-of-living adjustments, and permanent elimination of longevity pay. Those losses were still felt today as state employees faced another round of losses. Ms. Healy said that same sentiment was echoed in many comments received by the NSHE Classified Council.

Ms. Healy said any loss and/or reduction in classified employees' direct monetary compensation should be negotiated through shared governance and/or collective bargaining in accordance with *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 288.150 to promote equality among employees. The NSHE Classified Council asked that the Committee consider a model that would spare essential employees such as sanitation, public health and public safety employees, from participation in furloughs. She said the demand for their services was great and the state could not afford to reduce their effectiveness.

Continuing, Ms. Healy said the NSHE Classified Council requested that any decision made by the state include language ensuring that retirement benefits for state employees would not be affected by furloughs. The council also requested a sunset date for any implemented furloughs, no later than the end of the 2021-23 biennium. Finally, the NSHE Classified Council requested that classified merit increases continue to be awarded to ensure service recognition, even if the monetary increase was frozen until the end of the furlough period.

Ms. Healy extended her appreciation on behalf of the NSHE Classified Council for the Committee's support of state classified employees.

Ms. Healy provided written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-8](#)).

Victor Salcido, Charter School Association of Nevada (CSAN), said the CSAN represented public charter schools throughout the state and the 58,000 students who attended those schools. The CSAN was fully aware of the difficult decisions that must be made during these challenging times; however, the state could not rely on budget cuts to resolve the problem, especially not cuts to public education.

Mr. Salcido said the CSAN joined its colleagues in asking that any discussions concerning potential cuts be accompanied by discussions about additional revenue. He said history had taught the state that a crisis sometimes presented an opportunity to implement systemwide change. The CSAN was hopeful the current crisis would be used as an opportunity to rebuild the state's economy through the prioritization of public education, including charter schools.

Marcos Lopez, Americans for Prosperity Nevada, recognized Assemblywoman Titus, Assemblyman Kramer, Assemblyman Wheeler, Senator Kieckhefer and Senator Settlemeyer for making valid points and asking helpful questions related to spending priorities at previous IFC meetings. He said it had not gone unnoticed.

Mr. Lopez said the public statement submitted by Americans for Prosperity Nevada included a list of various agencies and departments where further cuts could be found as well as areas of unnecessary spending that should be investigated and eliminated, mainly through certain programs and tax abatements ([Exhibit B-9](#)).

Looking toward the next inevitable crisis, Mr. Lopez said the state needed to avoid the “budgeting-by-crisis model” and move toward a long-term sustainable model. He said that would require comprehensive pension reform; strengthening the Rainy Day Account until it reached an adequate funding level, with strong limitations on when and how it could be accessed; and allowing private investment to increase. Overall, that meant increasing the flexibility of the economy to respond to future crises. Mr. Lopez said Americans for Prosperity Nevada recommended comprehensive occupational licensing reform, lifting restrictions on home-based businesses, implementing red-tape reduction programs with targeted reduction deadlines, and eliminating harmful zoning and land-use restrictions to increase availability, flexibility and affordability.

Mr. Lopez recalled public comment concerning tax increases. He noted that in the past two weeks, Nevadans had significantly cut back on spending; therefore, adding more burden by increasing taxes was the wrong approach.

Mr. Lopez submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-9](#)).

Bonnie Jones said her comments were of a more personal nature, because her current position was one of many that the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) had planned to eliminate in the upcoming budget cycle. On June 25, 2019, in a meeting headed by Kimberly Gaa, Administrator, Employment Security Division, DETR, and witnessed by Mary Harmon and Tiffani Silva, Ms. Jones was notified that her position was to be eliminated. Ms. Jones said she was 6 months from retirement and thought she was singled out due to age. She was informed that DETR would purchase up to 5 years of service, which would allow her to retire on June 30, 2020, with 30 years of service. Ms. Jones said she accepted the offer; however, she was informed this week that her position would not be eliminated after all. She indicated that DETR intended to request funding for her position for FY 2020 and FY 2021; therefore, the department rescinded its offer to purchase service credits for Ms. Jones.

Ms. Jones said she had already made arrangements for part-time work as a senior caregiver two days per week, which was scheduled to begin the first week in July 2020. In addition, she had agreed to care for her grandchildren so her children could return to work. Ms. Jones said she was uncertain if those opportunities would be available in the future. If funding was not approved for her position, Ms. Jones requested that

DETR honor its offer to purchase service credits. If funding was approved, she requested that DETR place her on administrative leave with pay until she reached 30 years of service with the state. Ms. Jones said she was sharing the information with the Committee, because she thought it was the only way to compel DETR to honor its prior commitment.

Chair Carlton announced that the first period of public comment was closed; however, there would be another opportunity for public comment at the end of the meeting. She encouraged callers to either remain on the line or monitor the meeting until the second period of public comment was announced.

C. ECONOMIC FORUM – Report required pursuant to NRS 353.228(1)(f) regarding the Economic Forum meeting conducted on June 10, 2020. INFORMATIONAL ONLY.

Russell Guindon, Principal Deputy Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB, stated that the Economic Forum held its statutorily required meeting on June 10, 2020, pursuant to NRS 353.226. Due to a scheduling conflict, the chairman of the Economic Forum directed Mr. Guindon to present the report to the IFC on his behalf.

Mr. Guindon reported that all five members of the Economic Forum were reappointed to another two-year term by Governor Sisolak. The members of the Economic Forum were as follows:

- Craig Billings, Chair, Governor Nominee
- Linda Rosenthal, Vice Chair, Governor Nominee
- Marvin Leavitt, Speaker of the Assembly Nominee
- Jennifer Lewis, Senator Majority Leader Nominee
- Frank Streshley, Governor Nominee

Mr. Guindon stated that the Economic Forum was not statutorily required to consider or approve revised General Fund revenue forecasts at its two interim meetings; therefore, no revised forecasts were presented at the June 10, 2020, meeting. However, staff did present a preliminary revised consensus forecast for FY 2020, which was prepared by Susanna Powers, Governor's Finance Office (GFO), and the revenue staff of the LCB Fiscal Analysis Division (page 7, [Exhibit A](#)). Mr. Guindon noted that the consensus forecast had been provided to Susan Brown, Director, GFO; Mark Krmpotic, Senate Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB; and Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB, on May 29, 2020.

Mr. Guindon said the information contained in the consensus forecast was continually changing. The data included in the forecast was based on actual tax collections reported primarily by the Department of Taxation and the Gaming Control Board (GCB), as well as other state agencies. He said the forecast would have incorporated actual collections through March 2020 for monthly revenue sources and third quarter revenue for quarterly revenue sources; however, it only included the first two weeks of March 2020 due to the

shutdown in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated that the two-week shutdown had a negative impact on monthly revenue sources and a more marginal impact on quarterly revenue sources.

Referring to page 7 of the meeting packet, Mr. Guindon said the 2 Percent Sales Tax was projected to decline by \$182.0 million, or 13.9% from the Economic Forum's May 2019 forecast ([Exhibit A](#)). In addition, the Gaming Percentage Fees Tax was projected to decline by approximately \$161.0 million, which staff believed to be an accurate number based on the fact that the gaming industry was shut down from mid-March until May. Mr. Guindon noted that May was the last business activity period month for collections for FY 2020. He said the actual reported collections for business activity in April was \$19,000 and no collections were expected in May.

Continuing, Mr. Guindon said the Modified Business Tax (MBT) was projected to decline by approximately \$48.0 million. He noted that in May 2020, Sales Tax remained the state's primary General Fund revenue source, with the Gaming Percentage Fees Tax and the MBT the second and third largest General Fund revenue sources, respectively. However, in the revised forecast, the MBT was the state's second largest General Fund revenue source given the degradation of the Gaming Percentage Fees Tax. Mr. Guindon noted that the revised forecast for the Gaming Percentage Fees Tax was projected at \$620.6 million, which he indicated was a solid number due to the nature of the tax. He said that figure was below the trough during the Great Recession when the Gaming Percentage Fees Tax was approximately \$630.0 million in FY 2010.

Mr. Guindon said the preliminary consensus estimate for the state's unrestricted General Fund in FY 2020 was expected to decline by \$545.0 million, or approximately 12.3% from the Economic Forum's May 2019 forecast, as adjusted for legislative actions from the 2019 Legislative Session.

Mr. Guindon noted that the Economic Forum was asked to prepare revised forecasts in June 2008 and January 2010 due to the Great Recession; however, the Economic Forum had not yet been called to convene to prepare a revised forecast during the pandemic and the resulting economic downturn. He said, if the Economic Forum was convened to produce a forecast, it would be outdated almost immediately due to constantly changing data. Given that fact, staff from the GFO and the LCB Fiscal Analysis Division determined it was more practical to prepare a revised consensus forecast. He said the consensus forecast was prepared on May 29, 2020, but the information set had already changed (page 7, [Exhibit A](#)). Additional data would be provided by the GCB and the Department of Taxation at the end of June, at which time GFO and LCB Fiscal Analysis Division staff would make the necessary adjustments to revenue sources. Staff would continue to make adjustments as additional information was received. Mr. Guindon remarked that the GCB and Department of Taxation had been very accommodating to requests for information by GFO and LCB Fiscal Analysis Division staff.

Continuing, Mr. Guindon said the information before the Committee was the same information that was presented to the Economic Forum on June 10, 2020. He said the

Economic Forum would begin convening in the fall of 2020 to produce a revised forecast for FY 2021 as well as a forecast for FY 2022 and FY 2023 that would be used by the Governor to build the recommended biennial budget, which would then be submitted to the 2021 Legislature. He noted that the forecast for the 2021-23 biennium must be prepared and approved on or before December 3, 2020. Mr. Guindon said the members and staff of the Economic Forum anticipated that the upcoming forecast cycle would be unique and difficult.

Mr. Guindon said the GCB gave a presentation at the June 10, 2020, Economic Forum meeting concerning the procedures for reopening gaming operations after the mandated closure. He said the gaming-related information set would change as casinos began to reopen. Mr. Guindon said overall, revenue source data had been more volatile during the pandemic than it was during the Great Recession.

Mr. Guindon said David Schmidt, Chief Economist, Research and Analysis Bureau, DETR, also gave a presentation at the June 10, 2020, meeting of the Economic Forum. The presentation focused on statistics related to employment and unemployment. He noted that DETR did not provide projections to the Economic Forum, but the department would continue to monitor unemployment data to assist with revenue forecasting as well as the impact on the state's budget.

At the June 10, 2020, meeting, the Economic Forum was presented with a comparison between actual year-to-date (YTD) collections and the May 2019 forecast ([Exhibit C](#) and [Exhibit D](#)). Mr. Guindon said the revised forecast projected that General Fund revenues would be down by approximately \$545.0 million by the end of FY 2020 (page 7, [Exhibit A](#)). Actual YTD General Fund revenues for the first nine to eleven months for monthly revenue sources as well as the first three quarters for quarterly revenue sources indicated that revenues were approximately \$137.5 million below the forecast. Mr. Guindon noted that three months of the 2 Percent Sales Tax remained to be collected as well as one quarter of the Insurance Premium Tax, the MBT and other large revenue sources. In addition, the Commerce Tax was not due until mid-August.

Mr. Guindon stated that taxable sales were reported based on the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) industry codes ([Exhibit E](#)). He noted the Food Services and Drinking Places category, which was typically Nevada's largest NAICS category, had been hit particularly hard during the pandemic. Referring to the first block of columns on page 1 of the table titled, *July through February Fiscal Year-to-Date for FY 2020 and FY 2019* ([Exhibit E](#)), Mr. Guindon noted a net increase of approximately \$480.7 million for the first eight months of FY 2020, or 6.1% over the same reference period in FY 2019. Moving to the second block of columns titled, *March 2020 vs March 2019 for FY 2020 and FY 2019*, he noted a decline of \$524.9 million due to the stay-at-home directive put in place in mid-March. Mr. Guindon said that two-week impact in March negated the revenue accumulated in the first eight months of the fiscal year, which gave some perspective to the impact of the directive.

Continuing, Mr. Guindon said the Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers category was the state's second largest NAICS category. Similar to the previous category, the impact in March 2020 negated the revenue accumulated earlier in the fiscal year. Mr. Guindon said the impact on revenue for April and May would be much more significant. He said Nevada would have to depend on residents to carry some of the NAICS categories that were historically supported by visitors to the state.

Moving on to the Nonstore Retailers category, Mr. Guindon explained that nonstore retailers included online retailers and marketplace facilitators, such as Amazon, Etsy and eBay, which were picked up with the passage of Assembly Bill (A.B.) 445 (2019 Legislature). He noted the provisions of A.B. 445 became effective October 1, 2019. Since then, the Nonstore Retailers category had increased by nearly 100%. In the first eight months of the fiscal year, the Nonstore Retailers category was up 82%. In March, it was up 111%, which was one of the larger increases. The Nonstore Retailers category was expected to increase significantly in April and May, because more people were shopping online. In fact, the Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores category was experiencing a correspondingly similar decrease. Mr. Guindon thought the revenue increase in the Nonstore Retailers category might minimize the impact on some of the other categories.

Mr. Guindon noted that in addition to the statewide NAICS table ([Exhibit E](#)), staff also created NAICS tables for Clark County ([Exhibit F](#)) and Washoe County ([Exhibit G](#)). He said tables had not been created for the other counties due to time constraints; however, LCB Fiscal Analysis Division staff could create a county-specific table upon request.

Chair Carlton thanked Mr. Guindon and his team for their effort over the past six to eight weeks.

Assemblywoman Neal recalled that the total projected shortfall for FY 2020 was approximately \$812.0 million. She asked for clarification about the \$545.0 million shortfall referenced by Mr. Guindon.

Mr. Guindon replied that the \$545.0 million shortfall was related to unrestricted General Fund revenues only. He said the remaining \$266.0 million included revenue sources in the Distributive School Account (DSA), such as the in-state portion of the Local School Support Tax (LSST), and one-third of the property tax, both of which were requirements in the Nevada Plan. Mr. Guindon said GFO and LCB Fiscal Analysis Division staff had also created a consensus forecast for the DSA, which totaled approximately \$293.0 million; however, the actual effect was less than the revenue effect due to A.B. 445, which was passed after the K-12 bill during the 2019 Legislative Session. Mr. Guindon explained that the revenue loss from the DSA and the guaranteed K-12 revenue sources resulted in an increase in the General Fund appropriation. He said the \$812.0 million total shortfall was a combination of the \$545.0 million shortfall in unrestricted General Fund revenues and approximately \$266.0 million from the anticipated increase in the General Fund appropriation that would be required to hold harmless the reduction in revenues for the guaranteed revenue sources included in the Nevada Plan.

In response to a question from Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson, Mr. Guindon replied that the amount of tax credits expected to be taken in FY 2020 was reduced by \$16.4 million. The forecast for all other tax credit programs was projected at approximately \$107.9 million in the Economic Forum's May 2019 forecast; however, that figure was revised based on data for the third quarter of FY 2020. Staff thought the amount of Commerce Tax credits that could be taken against the MBT was forecast too high by approximately \$9.0 million. In addition, approximately \$7.4 million reflected revisions to the Film Tax Credit and Catalyst Account Tax Credit programs. Lastly, he noted there was a slight adjustment to the Educational Choice Tax Credit program. Mr. Guindon also noted that the Tesla tax credit programs had ended.

Assemblywoman Tolles noted a reduction of 2.6% for the Insurance Premium Tax (page 7, [Exhibit A](#)). She understood the Insurance Premium Tax increased as more people enrolled in managed care programs. She asked if the loss was expected to decrease when the remaining months were assessed.

Mr. Guindon replied that the information set used for the revised projections was through the end of May 2020. The projections were based on the expectation that there would be some degradation to the Insurance Premium Tax for the last quarter of FY 2020. He said staff took into consideration that fewer people were purchasing and insuring vehicles. Staff also considered other types of insurance that may impact the Insurance Premium Tax. Mr. Guindon said staff would continue to revise projections for the Insurance Premium Tax as additional data was provided by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) as well as the Department of Business and Industry's (B&I) Division of Insurance.

Assemblywoman Tolles asked when an updated projection would be available for the Insurance Premium Tax.

Mr. Guindon replied that fourth quarter returns for the Insurance Premium Tax were not due until July 31, 2020. He said staff was provided with basic data concerning premiums, but the data was not broken down by category; therefore, staff would work with the DHHS and B&I's Division of Insurance to obtain category-specific data. Mr. Guindon thought the fourth quarter data would be available in August 2020. In the meantime, staff would continue to evaluate and make adjustments to the revised estimate for FY 2020. He noted that Assemblywoman Tolles as well as other members of the Legislature could request the updated information from staff.

Chair Carlton noted that many auto insurance companies were providing rebates to customers. She asked how that would impact the Insurance Premium Tax.

Mr. Guindon said staff was provided taxable sales data; however, that data did not include specific information, such as types of sales and rebates. The Department of Taxation would release data at the end of April 2020, which would reflect a full month of the shutdown and the resulting impact on supply curves. He thought that information would provide staff with a better sense of the future. Staff would also seek information from

other agencies. Mr. Guindon said the April and May data was important; however, the June data was especially important, because it would reflect the reopening of the state's economy. By the time the Economic Forum began the budget forecast cycle in October 2020, several months of actual data would be available.

In response to a question from Assemblyman Kramer, Mr. Guindon replied that under the provisions of *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 680B, the vast majority of Insurance Premium Tax returns were due the month following the end of a quarter for premiums written in the preceding quarter. Mr. Guindon said staff currently had actual data for the first nine months of FY 2020. He said returns were due in April for premiums that were written during the third quarter of FY 2020 (January through March 2020), and in July for premiums written during the fourth quarter of FY 2020 (April through June 2020).

Continuing, Mr. Guindon said Nevada law required insurers to file an annual return, which they could true up based on quarterly payments. He indicated that insurers that wrote less than \$2,000 in premiums in a calendar year could pay annually.

Senator Goicoechea asked if it would be beneficial for the Economic Forum to meet in early October 2020 to assess the data from the first quarter of FY 2021.

Mr. Guindon said the Economic Forum typically met in October and November of even-numbered years to review preliminary forecasts. In addition, the Economic Forum was required to meet on or before December 3 of even-numbered years to approve the statutorily required forecast, which was used by the Governor to build the recommended biennial budget. Mr. Guindon said there was discussion at the June 10, 2020, Economic Forum meeting about the possible need for additional meetings, and whether staff would present updated data and/or preliminary forecasts at those meetings. He said staff would continue to discuss the matter with the Economic Forum chairman.

Mr. Guindon said staff would know in October whether the information set was adequate to prepare and present preliminary forecasts. He said GFO staff and LCB Fiscal Analysis Division staff would continue to monitor the information and possibly produce revised forecasts for FY 2020 and FY 2021 leading up to the formal Economic Forum meetings in the fall.

Senator Goicoechea thought it would be helpful for the Committee as well as the public to see an Economic Forum report in October.

D. OFFICE OF FINANCE IN THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR – Status of the General Fund Shortfall in FY 2020 and actions taken or planned to address the estimated shortfall. INFORMATIONAL ONLY.

Agenda Items D and E were discussed jointly. Refer to testimony under Agenda Item E.

E. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE SETTING ASIDE OF RESERVES OF NOT MORE THAN 15% OF THE OPERATING EXPENSES OR OTHER APPROPRIATIONS AND MONEY OTHERWISE AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENTS, INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES OF THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT IN FISCAL YEAR 2020 IN ACCORDANCE WITH ASSEMBLY BILL 543, SECTION 84 (2019 Legislature).

Agenda Items D and E were discussed jointly.

Chair Carlton said Agenda Item D outlined solutions proposed by the Governor to address the budget shortfall for FY 2020, which resulted from the shutdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Agenda Item E was a request for approval of the setting aside of reserves of the operating expenses and one-time appropriations for FY 2020 in accordance with Assembly Bill (A.B.) 543, Section 84 (2019 Legislature). Chair Carlton said other budgetary solutions would be addressed when appropriate.

Chair Carlton said, although the Governor had released some information regarding FY 2021 reductions, such as furloughs and merit freezes, those proposals as well as any others were not part of the Committee's discussion today. The plan to address the FY 2021 shortfall would be considered at a later date.

Susan Brown, Director, Governor's Finance Office (GFO), said pages 6 through 20 in the meeting packet included the state of the FY 2020 General Fund shortfall and planned actions to address it ([Exhibit A](#)). The projected shortfall for FY 2020 was approximately \$812.0 million.

Ms. Brown noted the following revisions under the section on page 6 titled, *Proposed Reserves to Address Projected Shortfall – FY 2019-20* ([Exhibit A](#)):

- Budget Reserves Executive Branch Agencies – Revised from \$66,971,837 to \$66,963,988.
- Reserve of One-Time Appropriations from 2019 Session – Revised from \$21,985,878 to \$21,575,878.

Based on the aforementioned revisions, the total of proposed actions to address the shortfall was revised from \$88,957,715 to \$88,539,866.

Referring to the section on page 6 titled, *Other Potential Actions to Address the Projected Shortfall*, Ms. Brown stated that the actions listed would be handled through the appropriate avenues ([Exhibit A](#)). She noted that some of the actions would be included on the June 25, 2020, IFC agenda. The total of Other Potential Actions to Address the Projected Shortfall was \$107,109,614, and the subtotal of all proposed actions was \$611,891,344. Ms. Brown said actions that had already been taken to address the shortfall included a transfer of \$401,186,220 from the Rainy Day Account. The total of all actions taken to address the FY 2020 shortfall was \$416,241,864.

The final section on page 6, titled *Projected General Fund Balance – June 30, 2020*, included differences between the legislatively approved ending fund balance and the current balance ([Exhibit A](#)). The difference between the projected shortfall and proposed actions was \$200,057,933. Ms. Brown stated that an unbudgeted transfer to the Rainy Day Account of approximately \$25.0 million occurred during the fiscal year. She noted that figure was included in the amount of \$401,186,220 noted on page 6. She also noted that the transfer to the Disaster Relief Account was reduced by \$500,000 due to the elimination of the Rainy Day Account balance. Lastly, Ms. Brown noted that the ending fund balance for FY 2019 was higher than projected by \$102,882,349. She said the projected ending fund balance for FY 2020 was \$170,341,688.

Ms. Brown stated that the Economic Forum revenue source projections and the calculation for the DSA projected shortfall were located on pages 7 and 8, respectively, and the General Fund budget reductions were located on page 9 ([Exhibit A](#)).

Ms. Brown noted the following revisions to General Fund budget reductions:

- Lieutenant Governor – Revised from \$14,930 to \$12,839.
- Commission on Ethics – Revised from \$9,830 to \$4,071.

Pages 10 and 11 in the meeting packet included General Fund one-time appropriations ([Exhibit A](#)). Ms. Brown noted that S.B. 458, Department of Education, School Gardens Project, in the amount of \$410,000 had been removed. The project was currently under review and would be addressed separately. She said the total of one-time appropriations was revised from \$21,985,878 to \$21,575,878.

Ms. Brown stated that page 12 of the meeting packet included other actions that would be considered at a later date, and page 13 included the calculation for the Bond Interest and Redemption Fund that was received from the Office of the State Treasurer ([Exhibit A](#)).

Continuing, Ms. Brown said reimbursement requests for Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding were located on page 14 of the meeting packet ([Exhibit A](#)). She noted that the GFO had received approximately \$100.0 million in requests for FY 2020, a portion of which had been vetted. The items listed on page 14 were items that the GFO determined would qualify for reimbursement based on federal guidance ([Exhibit A](#)).

Finally, Ms. Brown noted that a list of completed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) projects was located on page 15 of the meeting packet ([Exhibit A](#)). The amounts displayed were available for reversion.

Chair Carlton opened the meeting to questions from Committee. She noted that the IFC would receive work programs for some of the items at the June 25, 2020, meeting.

Assemblywoman Titus commended Ms. Brown and her staff for their efforts.

In response to a question from Assemblywoman Titus, Ms. Brown said the state would not meet the 5% ending fund balance of \$231,769,372 for FY 2020. Current projections indicated an ending fund balance of \$170,341,688. She noted that the GFO was striving to reach a 5% ending fund balance for FY 2021.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson noted that the General Fund budget reductions listed on page 9 did not detail the budget cuts within each department ([Exhibit A](#)). She asked when the Committee would be provided with that information.

Ms. Brown replied that work programs had been prepared for the June 25, 2020, IFC meeting that would include specific details concerning budget cuts. She noted that representatives from the Department of Health and Human Services had joined the meeting and could speak to some of the reductions within the department.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson said the public was interested in knowing which programs would be impacted by budget cuts. She asked if that information would be available to the public when it was provided to the Committee at the June 25, 2020, meeting.

Chair Carlton said the budget reduction amount for the Department of Health and Human Services was significant; therefore, she thought it would be helpful for the department to provide a high-level overview of its proposed budget cuts and changes. She noted that nothing had been finalized, and federal funding could offer some relief.

Richard Whitley, Director, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), provided the following list of proposed budget reductions for the department:

- Change in Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) – \$10.3 million;
- Deferral of optional services – \$6.6 million;
- Elimination of one-shot appropriations for deferred maintenance – \$4.9 million; and
- Held vacancies – \$1.5 million.

Mr. Whitley added that the department had also found alternate funding sources for several budgetary items, which resulted in a savings of \$590,000.

Mr. Whitley said the department's priority was to avoid harming direct services and the staff that provided those services. In addition, the DHHS typically had reversions each year, and the total reversions for FY 2020 was not too far above the standard amount, given that the department frequently had staff vacancies which resulted in reversions. Mr. Whitley said the department used the anticipated reversion amount for FY 2020 toward the target goal for budget reductions.

Mr. Whitley said, overall, the department did not expect a reduction in direct services for FY 2020. In addition, CARES Act funds could be used to support positions that otherwise might be at risk for elimination or reduction, particularly within the Division of Welfare and

Supportive Services, where most of the revenue was used to support staff who determined eligibility for low-income clients. He said the benefit of the CARES Act funds was that they would prevent the department from having to cut direct services that were needed now more than ever.

Chair Carlton thanked Mr. Whitley for providing an overview of the department's budget reductions. She was pleased that direct services would be protected through the end of FY 2020.

Assemblywoman Tolles said there was a lot of information to absorb. She expressed concern about not reaching an ending fund balance of 5% and the resulting impact on the state's bond rating.

Assemblywoman Tolles said the proposed reductions for one-time appropriations totaled approximately \$22.0 million. She asked if there were other areas to consider that would help reach a 5% ending fund balance, such as additional savings related to the closure of schools, libraries, parks, etc. In addition, Assemblywoman Tolles noted that many of the one-time appropriations related to equipment savings. She asked how the state disposed of old equipment, and if that was an area where additional funds could be recovered.

Ms. Brown replied that the Governor directed state agencies to evaluate their budgets to determine where cuts could be made, knowing it was close to the end of the fiscal year. She said the GFO had assessed everything, including one-shot appropriations. She noted that a few items were still under consideration by the GFO, which may generate additional savings. Those items included internal service funds and other funding sources. Ms. Brown said it took a significant amount of time to scrutinize every budget account; therefore, the GFO had not yet captured all prospective savings. She noted that any savings generated within the schools would go back into the school's budget.

Ms. Brown said the GFO continued to evaluate FY 2020 and FY 2021 in an effort to reach the 5% ending fund balance. She said it may be within reach for FY 2021; however, it would be more difficult for FY 2020. Ms. Brown said the GFO would continue to review every area for additional savings.

Assemblywoman Tolles understood the GFO had a lot of information to review. She reiterated her concern about the impact on the state's bond rating if the state did not reach a 5% ending fund balance. She asked if it was still possible to get closer to that goal in FY 2020. Assemblywoman Tolles also asked what the estimated savings per day would be if furloughs were implemented for state employees.

Chair Carlton noted that the issue of furloughs related to FY 2021, which was not part of the Committee's current discussion. Additionally, she thought further analysis was required, and as such, it would be difficult to have a comprehensive discussion.

Chair Carlton asked Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB, to explain the 5% ending fund balance.

Cindy Jones, Assembly Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Analysis Division, LCB, said it was common practice in the state to end each fiscal year with a minimum ending fund balance of 5% of operating appropriations. The amount required to reach the 5% ending fund balance for FY 2020 was \$231,569,372 (page 6, [Exhibit A](#)). Assuming all revenue and expenditure projections presented to the Committee held true, the projected ending fund balance for FY 2020 would be \$170,717,892, which meant approximately \$50.0 million would be required to reach a 5% ending fund balance.

Ms. Jones noted that the state was not statutorily required to end the fiscal year with a 5% balance, but it was common practice and viewed positively by entities that reviewed state bond ratings. She stated that the only time an ending fund balance was statutorily required was when the Governor submitted the biennial budget to the Legislature; a minimum ending fund balance must be submitted through a combination of revenue projections and expenditures, and/or new funding proposals.

Chair Carlton said it was important to keep in mind that although it was desirable to reach an ending fund balance of 5%, it was not statutorily required. She remarked that every state in the nation was in a similar position. Chair Carlton said she did not think it was appropriate to put money in savings when the state had outstanding financial commitments. Although it was important to reach a 5% ending fund balance, it was also important to weigh the alternatives.

Assemblywoman Neal noted that one of the one-time appropriations listed on page 11 of the meeting packet related to Senate Bill (S.B.) 504 and the census ([Exhibit A](#)). She recalled that the census was extended until October 2020. She asked how the budget reduction would impact the state's funding for the next ten years.

Ms. Brown said the budget reduction for S.B. 504 would not interfere with census activities other than during the shutdown when those activities could not be conducted. She noted that those activities were extended into October along with the federal census.

Assemblywoman Neal said she wanted to ensure there would be adequate funding to conduct a comprehensive statewide census.

In answer to a question from Assemblywoman Neal, Ms. Brown replied that the Bond Interest and Redemption Fund was the budget account from which General Fund obligation bonds were paid. She said the Bond Interest and Redemption Fund included interest earnings, property tax and some net proceeds of minerals revenue.

Senator Kieckhefer noted a savings of \$568,397 related to CIP projects (page 6, [Exhibit A](#)). He asked if that savings was due to excess appropriations from projects that had been completed. Ms. Brown confirmed that was correct.

Senator Kieckhefer recalled that approximately \$60.0 million in General-Funded projects were included in the 2019 CIP bill. He asked if all those projects had been let, or if there were other projects that could be delayed to capture additional savings.

Ms. Brown replied that the CIP savings indicated on page 6 of the meeting packet were proposed savings to be captured in FY 2021 ([Exhibit A](#)).

Senator Kieckhefer said the funds from 2019 could be used to pay for CIP projects in either year of the 2019-21 biennium. In addition, there were other items for FY 2021 that could potentially be captured in FY 2020 to help reach the goal of a 5% ending fund balance. Senator Kieckhefer said he understood the 5% goal was not statutorily required; however, he thought it demonstrated sound fiscal management. He also thought it instilled confidence in the people of the state that the Legislature was able to make appropriate decisions to balance the budget, which was particularly important at a time when the public was being asked to have faith in state leadership.

Senator Kieckhefer said there were other CIP projects available, such as the University of Nevada, Las Vegas Engineering Building for \$20.0 million that was being considered for the FY 2021 shortfall. In addition, he recalled there was approximately \$20.0 million in settlement funds through the Office of the Attorney General, as well as excess appropriations in FY 2020 related to class-size reduction. Senator Kieckhefer thought those items could help reach the 5% ending fund balance. He asked why those items were not up for consideration.

Ms. Brown replied that excess appropriations for class-size reduction were statutorily required to balance forward to FY 2021; therefore, legislative action was required to use those funds in FY 2020. With regard to the 2019 CIP, she thought some projects could be funded with general obligation bonds rather than General Funds; however, that would require a statutory change, so those projects were pushed to FY 2021.

Chair Carlton said the proposal before the Committee was only the first step in the Executive Branch's plan to address the budget shortfall. Some items could be approved by the IFC, while other items required legislative action. Chair Carlton said the plan before the Committee was to get through the remainder of FY 2020.

Senator Kieckhefer said the plan before the Committee was being presented as a comprehensive solution for FY 2020. He said, if other actions to address the FY 2020 shortfall would be considered at a special session, that would alleviate many of his concerns about leaving a \$60.0 million gap between the projected ending fund balance and a 5% ending fund balance.

Chair Carlton said it was her understanding that the proposal before the Committee was only the first round of discussions to close the gap for FY 2020. She was aware there had been discussions about other actions; however, she had not yet been included in those discussions.

Ms. Brown said the plan before the Committee included proposed actions that were ready for consideration. She said the GFO was working to shore up the budget as much as possible before closing out FY 2020. Additionally, the GFO was still considering other options that may be available in FY 2020 versus FY 2021.

Senator Kieckhefer said he did not want to approve the proposal before the Committee, because it was not complete as presented. He thought the process had been one-directional and not collaborative. If there were plans to take additional action that would close the budget then he would support the proposal when it was submitted to the Committee. If not, then the job was incomplete and should not be approved.

Chair Carlton said she believed the Committee had a responsibility to fulfil its duties to address the FY 2020 shortfall, knowing full well it would not happen all at once. It was a multi-step process that included the transfer from the Rainy Day Account as well as the proposal before the Committee. Most likely, there would be additional steps before the process was complete. Chair Carlton said the vote today would determine how close the state could get to the goal of a 5% ending fund balance.

Ms. Brown noted that the GFO was still evaluating the Coronavirus Relief Funds. That number was expected to increase, which would help close the fiscal year. In addition, the GFO was reviewing agency budgets for potential reversions. She said those additional items would help the state move closer to the 5% goal in FY 2020.

In response to a statement from Chair Carlton, Ms. Brown confirmed that the items requiring the Committee's approval included agency budget reserves as well as the reserve of one-time appropriations so that the work programs could proceed to the June 25, 2020, IFC meeting.

Chair Carlton said she would accept a motion for Agenda Item E to approve the setting aside of reserves, as noted in the budget reduction plan submitted by the Governor, of the operating expenses or other appropriations and money otherwise available to the departments, institutions and agencies of the Executive Branch of the state government in FY 2020 in accordance with A.B. 543, Section 84 (2019 Legislature). Those items were noted on page 23 of the meeting packet in the amount \$66,963,988, and included the adjustments noted by the Governor's Finance Office ([Exhibit A](#)). Also being set aside in reserves were the one-time appropriations listed on pages 24 and 25 in the meeting packet in the amount of \$21,575,878, which were programs submitted to the Committee to implement the plan. Chair Carlton said the GFO should clearly identify any additional and necessary technical adjustments that may need to be made to the plan within each agency or any one-time appropriations, and ensure those documents were relayed to the Committee.

SENATOR WOODHOUSE MOVED TO APPROVE THE SETTING ASIDE OF RESERVES, AS NOTED IN THE BUDGET REDUCTION PLAN SUBMITTED BY THE GOVERNOR, OF THE OPERATING EXPENSES OR OTHER APPROPRIATIONS AND MONEY OTHERWISE AVAILABLE TO THE DEPARTMENTS, INSTITUTIONS AND AGENCIES OF THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT IN FY 2020 IN ACCORDANCE WITH ASSEMBLY BILL 543, SECTION 84 (2019 LEGISLATURE).

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL INCLUDED GENERAL FUND BUDGET REDUCTIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$66,963,988, ONE-TIME APPROPRIATIONS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$21,575,878, AND REVISIONS NOTED ON THE RECORD BY THE GOVERNOR'S FINANCE OFFICE.

THE GOVERNOR'S FINANCE OFFICE WAS DIRECTED TO CLEARLY IDENTIFY ANY ADDITIONAL AND NECESSARY TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS WITHIN EACH AGENCY, OR ANY ONE-TIME APPROPRIATIONS, AND PROVIDE DOCUMENTATION TO THE INTERIM FINANCE COMMITTEE.

ASSEMBLYMAN FRIERSON SECONDED THE MOTION.

Senator Kieckhefer thought the items in the motion were necessary to close the gap in FY 2020, just as the transfer of the Rainy Day Account balance had been necessary. However, he thought the plan was being piecemealed to the Committee by the Executive Branch. The Committee was giving away its authority in terms of the budgetary process, where it should have had significantly greater review of the proposed items. Senator Kieckhefer said the Committee was being asked to cut \$66.0 million from the state budget without receiving the full details of those cuts. Senator Kieckhefer understood the time constraints; however, he thought a more collaborative approach with the Committee and the Legislature as a whole may have yielded a better or different result. He said the notion that the Committee would do as the Governor instructed in each step of the process was not the way he wanted to go about it, because it was unhealthy.

Senator Kieckhefer said he opposed the motion not because the items were unnecessary, but because the Committee had not been provided a full picture of how the state would close out FY 2020.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson said she would support the motion; however, she encouraged a greater flow of information so that as legislators, the Committee could provide constituents with more details and a better explanation of the state's actions. She said many people wanted more details about prospective budget cuts.

Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson said Mr. Whitley provided a helpful overview of the DHHS budget reductions. She said it appeared the departments had a good idea of what the budget reductions would entail. She said she hoped the Committee and the public would be provided with specific details sooner than later.

Senator Goicoechea said the state was in a tough position. There were only 19 days remaining in the fiscal year and budget cuts were necessary. He said information about prospective furloughs and layoffs had been released to the public. Senator Goicoechea understood those issues were for consideration in FY 2021, but the public did not. He expressed concern that the Committee had only been provided a portion of the details; therefore, he opposed the motion.

Assemblywoman Tolles said she realized that it was an unusual time as well as an unusual process. As it was her first time on the Committee, she was unsure of the typical order of things. During a legislative committee hearing, a vote was not usually taken at the first meeting. She understood the discomfort of other Committee members regarding the lack of clarity, and she shared in that discomfort. She appreciated that the GFO indicated there might be additional savings to be found. Assemblywoman Tolles asked if it was possible to delay the vote until more details could be provided to the Committee.

Chair Carlton replied that the Executive Branch had presented its plan to address the FY 2020 shortfall, and the Committee was being asked to vote on that plan. If approved, the work programs would be submitted for approval at the June 25, 2020, IFC meeting. Chair Carlton did not believe there was time to delay the vote.

Assemblywoman Titus said she also opposed the motion. She had concerns about the number of inconsistencies in the plan. For example, she recalled a comment by Ms. Brown indicating that CIP projects could not be included in the plan without legislative action; however, there were several items on page 6 of the meeting packet that also required legislative action, such as the Disaster Relief Account and the one-time appropriation to the Boys and Girls Club ([Exhibit A](#)).

Chair Carlton clarified that the items referenced by Assemblywoman Titus were appropriations. The items included in the motion for Agenda Item E were agency budget reserves and one-shot appropriations.

Senator Settlemeyer said he shared his colleagues' concerns about the transparency issue. He was also concerned with the clawback of the Marsy's Law funds, which could potentially create an unfunded mandate for prosecutors and district attorneys. He said every county and city was experiencing problems, and an unfunded mandate would only contribute to those problems.

Senator Settlemeyer understood the sense of urgency in addressing the state's shortfall; however, he thought part of that urgency was a failure to plan in mid-March when an industry that contributed over \$100.0 million a month to the state budget was shut down.

He said the state should have begun the process of planning and budget reductions at that time.

Ms. Jones stated that the regular IFC Contingency Account was another avenue the Committee could consider in the event of a claim related to Marsy's Law.

Senator Woodhouse said she supported the motion, and she appreciated the comments made by Chair Carlton and Assemblywoman Benitez-Thompson. She said staff had done a considerable amount of work and the recovery process needed to begin immediately. Although it would be helpful to have all the details immediately available, that was not possible, because significant research was required to determine what could be handled by the IFC and what would require legislative action. She thought a multi-step approach was appropriate under the circumstances. Senator Woodhouse encouraged her colleagues to support the motion.

THE MOTION PASSED. (Senator Goicoechea, Senator Kieckhefer, Senator Settelmeyer, Assemblyman Hambrick, Assemblyman Kramer, Assemblywoman Titus and Assemblywoman Tolles opposed the motion.)

F. PUBLIC COMMENT

Pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Directive 006, there was no physical location for the June 12, 2020, meeting of the Interim Finance Committee. The meeting was broadcast on the Nevada Legislative website at www.leg.state.nv.us. Public comment was accepted live via telephone. Written comments were also accepted by e-mail, facsimile, and mail before, during, and after the meeting.

Darcy Brauhaus said she opposed furloughs, especially for state law enforcement. She said state law enforcement personnel was already at a disadvantage, because the average wage was 25% less than at the local level. Ms. Brauhaus said the state should not require furloughs for law enforcement personnel during these difficult times. Law enforcement agencies were already understaffed, and further reducing staff would put the public at risk.

Travis Smaka, State Trooper, Nevada Highway Patrol, Department of Public Safety (DPS), and member of the Nevada Police Union, understood the critical nature of the loss of state revenue due to the global pandemic. However, he was one of many who had continued to put his health and his family's health at risk while protecting Nevadans during the pandemic. Staying home and staying safe was not an option in his line of work.

Mr. Smaka said state and local law enforcement held the line against dangerous agitators who turned peaceful protesting into violent, destructive and volatile riots. Law enforcement personnel were attacked with bricks, bottles, jars of urine, and fire, but they held the line and saved Nevada untold millions of dollars by preventing damage to public buildings, private businesses, resort properties and lives lost, unlike what had occurred in other states. Mr. Smaka urged the Committee to exempt law enforcement

from furloughs and pay freezes in FY 2021. He said state law enforcement was still reeling from the last round of furloughs and pay freezes. He indicated that many state troopers and other law enforcement, some with 15 to 20 years of state service, had still not topped out in pay. The proposed cuts would essentially defund state law enforcement and cause even further losses to personnel in terms of attrition and early retirement.

Continuing, Mr. Smaka said the Nevada Highway Patrol was already grossly understaffed, which cost the lives of other staff, as was seen when Nevada Highway Patrol Sergeant Ben Jenkins was brutally murdered on the side of the road in early 2020. The Nevada Highway Patrol was spread so thin that backup did not arrive until nearly 30 minutes after Sergeant Jenkins was shot. The reality for state troopers was that in many cases they had to fight for their lives knowing backup would not arrive quickly. Mr. Smaka said the lack of state troopers also placed the public in danger. He noted that Nevada was currently experiencing a ten-year high in fatal car crashes. The people of Nevada could not afford to lose any more state troopers, or fatal car crashes would continue to rise and more lives would be lost.

Mr. Smaka said state troopers made 25% less than local law enforcement. He said state troopers admirably served the state at their own risk. He urged the Committee not to put the lives of state law enforcement in further danger by implementing furloughs and pay freezes in FY 2021.

Mr. Smaka submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-10](#)).

Adam Barrington, University of Nevada, Reno, Office of Sponsored Projects, and member of AFSCME Local 4041, said he had been involved with AFSCME for three years. He moved to Nevada to become an organizer to help state workers get a collective bargaining agreement. He said the proposed cuts and furloughs were another direct assault on the state workforce. Once again, the state was balancing the budget on the backs of state employees. Mr. Barrington said Nevada did not have an income tax, and it was a corporate tax haven. There was plenty of money to be had elsewhere, rather than the pockets of state employees who were already severely underpaid and under-represented.

Mr. Barrington said he understood there were different opinions on the matter, but he thought law enforcement agencies received more money and federal funding than civilian state employees. He said state employees were still not whole from the previous round of furloughs and pay freezes during the Great Recession. Mr. Barrington thought it was economically irresponsible and unethical to take money from civilian state workers when there was a bloated police budget.

Michael Martinez, Correctional Officer, High Desert State Prison, NDOC, said he had been a state employee since August 2000. He said correctional officers were financially impacted during the previous round of furloughs, which forced him to seek secondary employment.

Continuing, Mr. Martinez said inmate activity was not reduced when furloughs were implemented in the past. He said correctional officers were working 8-hour shifts when they should have been working 12-hour shifts with rolling lockdowns and limited inmate activity.

Mr. Martinez said correctional officers still had not recovered from the previous round of furloughs. Although he was near retirement, he did not intend to retire; however, there were other correctional officers who did plan to retire due to the threat of furloughs. A large gap would remain if a number of tenured personnel retired, and it would have a significant impact on the prisons and staff.

Mr. Martinez said correctional officers were provided with 40-millimeter handguns instead of shotguns, which limited how they could respond to fights between inmates. Correctional officers were already at risk, and furloughs would increase that risk. He said Nevada did not want to experience what was occurring in Seattle, and certainly not within the prison facilities.

Nicholas Montgomery, Officer, Division of Parole and Probation, DPS, and Vice President of the Nevada Police Union, addressed the potential implementation of furloughs and merit salary freezes in FY 2021. He said, for about ten years, state law enforcement suffered directly as a result of the furloughs that were implemented during the Great Recession. He thought there must be other options aside from reducing pay. As it stood, state law enforcement was underpaid by about 25% compared to local law enforcement.

Mr. Montgomery noted that he worked for the Division of Parole and Probation, and at the completion of the 2019 Legislative Session, his workload increased due to the passage of A.B. 236. He said the workforce was continuing to diminish, and furloughs and merit freezes would only exacerbate the problem. Law enforcement was critical and necessary for the safety of the community. Any reduction in law enforcement personnel would directly impact the community on a long-term basis. Mr. Montgomery said Nevada could not afford lower quality staff that the low wage would attract, because that would ultimately impact the quality of protection afforded to the community.

Priscilla Maloney, representing the Retiree Chapter of AFSCME Local 4041, said the retirees of AFSCME Local 4041 echoed and supported the remarks made by Harry Schiffman, President of AFSCME Local 4041. State retirees expressed concern that once more, in the time of a budget crisis, the financial and personal well-being of state employees was at serious risk as cuts to salaries and benefits were discussed. Many of those state employees were essential, frontline workers. She understood that the Governor indicated that benefits would not be affected, but discussions were still ongoing.

Continuing, Ms. Maloney said Nevada had repeatedly balanced the budget on the backs of state employees during times of fiscal crisis. State employees were currently facing a public health and financial crisis at the same time. Ms. Maloney recognized the unique

nature of the crises that COVID-19 posed for the entire country, not just Nevada. She thought it may be the most serious crisis that Nevada had ever faced.

Ms. Maloney agreed with Mr. Guindon in that there were many unknowns related to the pandemic. Now more than ever, all stakeholders deserved a seat at the table. In the past, Nevada had solved budget crises without significant input from representatives of the state workforce, especially since 2009. She said the financial well-being of the state workforce was just now recovering from the cuts during the Great Recession. Ms. Maloney urged the Committee to heed the request of AFSCME Local 4041 President, Mr. Schiffman, to include the state workforce in discussions concerning prospective cuts in FY 2021. The stakeholders included the workers whose very lives were on the frontlines, keeping Nevada running during the public health and economic crisis.

Marcos Lopez, Americans for Prosperity Nevada, discussed additional options for long-term structural changes to the state budget ([Exhibit B-9](#)). He thought the collective bargaining bill that was approved during the 2019 Legislative Session should be readdressed, including prevailing wages. He noted the state was currently overpaying by nearly 40% for public works. Mr. Lopez also thought the labor project agreement that was passed during the 2019 Legislative Session should be readdressed.

Matthew Kaplan, President of the Nevada Police Union, said on April 10, 2020, the Nevada Police Union sent a letter to Governor Sisolak that outlined the concerns of the union. More than two months later, the Nevada Police Union had not received a response from the Office of the Governor regarding the suggestions contained in the letter.

Mr. Kaplan said, as one of the largest unions in the state, the Nevada Police Union greatly valued and appreciated the dedication to public health and safety that Governor Sisolak had shown during the crisis. The Nevada Police Union was committed to supporting legislative directives and ensuring the safety of the public. With the economic downturn in Nevada, many critical frontline workers in the state had expressed concern regarding potential furloughs and layoffs. In 2009, former Governor Gibbons, in his solution to deal with the economic downturn, instituted indiscriminate, across the board cuts and furloughs to state employees. Even after ten years, Nevada's DPS still had not recovered from those devastating cuts and budgetary practices. The DPS lost a significant number of staff and continued to struggle to recruit and fill vacant positions.

Mr. Kaplan said adequate resources were a matter of life or death when protecting and preserving the peace. The Nevada Police Union, along with emergency medical employees, were requesting that frontline, public safety officers responsible for protecting communities across the state, be held harmless and protected from any furloughs, merit freezes or layoffs. The union believed those actions would jeopardize the safety and security of the public. The Nevada Police Union leadership team, comprised of former and current state leaders, had reviewed possible solutions and wanted to offer revenue-generating options that did not require new taxes, but instead provided collective, legal revenue. Instead of leveraging a fall out from the pandemic on the backs of workers who were on the frontlines, the state should follow the lead of many other

states by fully utilizing the Highway Fund and federal match for employees, and bonding for capital expenditures; bringing in grant funds; and finding ways to offset the gas tax with the growth of electric vehicles. Finally, he said the state should collect all legislatively mandated revenues. The state was leaving approximately \$300.0 million a year on the table by not ensuring those funds were fully collected.

Mr. Kaplan said it was very unsettling that essential workers were being asked to shoulder the burden of the deficit while the state was failing to collect from all revenue sources.

Jason Jackson, Game Warden, Department of Wildlife, said with only 40 state game wardens working to make Nevada's backcountry, water ways, state parks, and remote hunting and fishing areas safe for residents and visitors, it was deplorable that the Governor and others would even consider reducing their pay. Nevada game wardens worked hard to keep people safe. They saved lives and prevented people from harming themselves or destroying sensitive sites throughout the state.

Mr. Jackson said game wardens deserved to be exempt from furloughs and merit freezes. Compared to other public servants, game wardens made an average of 10% to 15% less; however, they were required to have specialized training and education. Specifically, game wardens were required to have a four-year degree in Wildlife Management or Criminal Justice, and other education that helped them to be better police officers. He said game wardens also utilized specialized equipment, which required professional development training.

Mr. Jackson indicated that the Governor and others decided to essentially defund the Department of Wildlife, even though the department was only budgeted by 3% of the General Fund. The remainder of the Department of Wildlife budget was funded with federal funds and Sportsmen Revenue. Mr. Jackson thought it was disheartening and immoral that game wardens were looked down upon by leaders in state government. He said game wardens were not treated with the same decency and respect that was given to other law enforcement personnel in the state.

Mr. Jackson thought the state should be ashamed to even consider taking more money from game wardens and other state law enforcement. Nevada police officers were willing to die to keep people safe. He said game wardens and law enforcement deserved better.

Mr. Jackson said Nevada would probably see a big influx of people to the state due to pandemic-related challenges in other states; therefore, the need for law enforcement would only increase. He urged the Committee to reconsider furloughs and merit freezes. He reiterated that state law enforcement, especially game wardens, deserved to be treated with more respect by state leaders and other people they protected and served; they should not have to consider a career change.

Cordelia Alexander-Leeder said she was a fourth generation Nevadan. She had accepted a conditional Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) funding offer and would attend Washington State University's College of Veterinarian Medicine in the

fall of 2020. She said WICHE's Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP) funding was vital to her and many other students across Nevada. Without an in-state option for veterinary school, Nevadans who aspired to become veterinarians must seek out-of-state education. Ms. Alexander-Leeder said veterinary school would be out of reach for many talented and intelligent students without WICHE's PSEP funding to offset the burden of out-of-state tuition costs.

Continuing, Ms. Alexander-Leeder said WICHE-supported professionals returned to Nevada to serve their communities and alleviate workforce shortages. Veterinarians were essential to public health in Nevada. She understood Nevada was experiencing an unprecedented event, and the state anticipated significant reductions in State General Fund revenue; however, WICHE's PSEP should remain funded to ensure the health of Nevada.

Ms. Alexander-Leeder submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-11](#)).

Joe Roberts, Correctional Officer, Lovelock Correctional Center, NDOC, said he had been a correctional officers for 17 years. He was also President of the Corrections Chapter of AFSCME Local 4041. Mr. Roberts said he worked through the Great Recession and had seen the impact of budget cuts. He did not receive a pay increase for five years. During that time, he also had furloughs and off-the-top pay cuts. He said, in all honesty, he was not sure how state workers managed to survive that crisis. Mr. Roberts recalled that he had struggled to pay his mortgage during that time, just like many other Nevadans. With a family to take care of, those were very trying times. He noted that state employees never fully recovered from the last round of pay cuts and furloughs. He also noted that medical premiums were rising sharply for employees with families beginning July 1, 2020, which could also be considered a pay cut.

Mr. Roberts said many of the cuts that impacted state employees as well as their work-related resources were never restored. In the years since the Great Recession, the NDOC continued to be understaffed. Staff made do without equipment, upgrades and other important resources. The NDOC could not handle any more cuts, because it was already operating on a shoestring budget, as it had been for years. Reducing the budget further would increase security issues at a time when staff and inmate assaults were at an all-time high. It would also hinder any progress that had been made with inmate rehabilitation programs.

Mr. Roberts said Nevada still had one of the highest rates of unemployment in the nation. Laying off or furloughing state employees would only add to those numbers, putting the state further behind on the road to recovery.

Federico Fonseca, Correctional Officer, Southern Desert Correctional Center, NDOC, and Vice President of the Corrections Chapter of AFSCME Local 4041, said furloughs would put a significant strain on the NDOC as well as the entire state. He said it did not make sense to eliminate one day of pay per employee, but then pay another employee overtime to cover the shift of the employee on furlough leave. When that happened, the

NDOC would restrict overtime, which would result in minimal staffing at the prisons, thereby increasing risks to correctional officers. Mr. Fonseca indicated that it would be difficult to fill vacancies due to furloughs. He urged the state to find alternative revenue sources.

Giovanni Vega, Developmental Support Technician, Desert Regional Center (DRC), DPBH, DHHS, and member of AFSCME Local 4041, said the DRC was rightfully deemed an essential service during the pandemic. He explained that the DRC was a residential center for people with intellectual and other disabilities. Mr. Vega said he continued to report to work during the pandemic, because he was passionate about his job. He wanted to ensure that DRC residents had a clean and safe environment in which to thrive. The residents at the DRC depended on staff for life's most basic tasks; tasks that able-bodied people sometimes took for granted. Cuts to those services, or to the staff that provided those services, would have a devastating effect on some of the most vulnerable Nevadans.

Mr. Vega said state employees deserved to have a say in any changes that impacted their working conditions. He said it was imperative for DRC staff to have input about changes, because they knew the residents and duties better than anyone else. He said staff had special insight regarding which changes would cause the least amount of disruption in care.

Jose Navarrete, Correctional Officer, Southern Desert Correctional Center, NDOC, opposed the implementation of furloughs for state law enforcement and frontline workers. He thought it was insulting to implement furloughs and merit freezes during the pandemic, when law enforcement personnel were on the frontlines serving and protecting communities. He asked what kind of message it would send if the Governor, who had called a special session to raise taxes to build a football stadium, chose to implement cuts to state employees rather than generating new revenue.

Mr. Navarrete urged the Committee to vote against furloughs and merit freezes for FY 2021. He said the state needed to show gratitude to law enforcement staff that served and protected the state.

Dr. Kimberly Vidoni, Mental Health Counselor, Yerington Rural Clinic, and member of AFSCME Local 4041, commended the Legislature for working with AFSCME to give state workers a voice.

Dr. Vidoni said she provided frontline mental health services to residents in rural Nevada. As the state began the process of economic recovery, it was time to consider alternatives to furloughs and layoffs, which inflicted harm on communities by cutting services. She suggested offering voluntary early separation options to state workers as was the practice in many Nevada school districts. Such options would extend Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) benefits to top paid workers who wished to retire from state service and grow Nevada's economy in innovative ways, making way for younger workers who could bring fresh ideas to state service.

Dr. Vidoni thanked the Committee for considering her suggestions as well as for its leadership during a most difficult time.

Dr. Vidoni submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-12](#)).

Bobby Barhaas said he had been a police officer for ten years with University Police Services. He understood that furloughs were not up for discussion by the Committee today; however, he urged Committee members to show their support for first responders in Nevada.

Mr. Barhaas said there was currently a shortage of officers in his department, because five to seven officers left recently for other opportunities; one of the reasons for leaving was the wage. He said University Police Services was seeking additional officers, but furloughs would discourage candidates from applying.

Mr. Barhaas said health insurance was expensive. As a father of two, he paid over \$600 a month in premiums for the health maintenance organization. He appreciated the level of benefits in the state; however, that did not outweigh the fact that first responders were paying too much. In addition, the PERS contribution was scheduled to increase for first responders.

Mr. Barhaas said he was the voice for 25 officers in his department who were also members of the Nevada Police Union. He and his fellow officers had been on the frontlines during the pandemic, putting themselves and their families at risk of exposure to COVID-19. He said the best way to thank them was to oppose the implementation of furloughs and merit freezes.

Carrie Edlessen said she worked for the Division of Museums and History within the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs (DTCA). During the Great Recession, museum staff were not provided the same opportunity as other state employees to take furloughs where benefits were not affected. Rather, museum employees, who were originally hired as full-time staff, were forced to become part-time employees, which impacted the date for merit salary increases, retirement and other benefits. Today, museum staff and other DTCA employees were being forced to take voluntary leave without pay, in addition to furlough days, due to the severe reduction in the department's major funding source, the lodging tax. Once again, a small group of state employees had been singled out for a combination of one-day per month furloughs and an additional two to four days per pay period of leave without pay. Ms. Edlessen said the Governor indicated that benefits would not be affected; however, that was not true for certain employees. Once again, museum employees had been singled out and were facing harsher cuts than other state employees. In addition, museum staff would take a 30% reduction in pay, where other state employees would experience a much smaller cut. Ms. Edlessen said there was a true lack of equity in the state that needed to be addressed.

Anne Cory, Grants Director, Community Health Alliance, submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-13](#)).

Daphne Deleon, President, AFSCME Local 4041, Washoe Chapter, submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-14](#)).

Elise Mihali submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-15](#)).

Erik Schoen, Executive Director, Community Chest, Inc., submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-16](#)).

Michelle Badten submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-17](#)).

Jayme Ames submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-18](#)).

Becky Mathes submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-19](#)).

Mike Bradford submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-20](#)).

Scott Brickey submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-21](#)).

Kirstin N. Clifford submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-22](#)).

Michael Conely, Retired State Trooper, and Lillian Conely submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-23](#)).

Robert Conely, Nevada Highway Patrol, DPS, submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-24](#)).

Melinda Cowan, Game Warden, Department of Wildlife, submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-25](#)).

O'Niel Cueto submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-26](#)).

Solon J. Davenport, State Trooper, Nevada Highway Patrol, DPS, submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-27](#)).

Will Dawson submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-28](#)).

Matt Deck submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-29](#)).

Hannah DeGoey submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-30](#)).

Wayne Dice submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-31](#)).

Heather Digesti submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-32](#)).

Dimitri submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-33](#)).

Brian Eby submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-34](#)).

Clifford Fontaine, State Trooper, Nevada Highway Patrol, DPS, submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-35](#)).

John Torrise submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-36](#)).

C. Garcia submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-37](#)).

Brian Goodwin submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-38](#)).

Keiko Guthrie submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-39](#)).

Megan Kaplan submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-40](#)).

Bert Kirk, State Trooper, Nevada Highway Patrol, DPS, submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-41](#)).

Amber Koski submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-42](#)).

Lindsay Diamond submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-43](#)).

Meghan Madrigan submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-44](#)).

Maibarra submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-45](#)).

Darren May, State Trooper, Nevada Highway Patrol, DPS, submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-46](#)).

T.L. Miller submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-47](#)).

Morene Monks submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-48](#)).

Neil Morgon submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-49](#)).

Joseph Neely, State Trooper, Nevada Highway Patrol, DPS, submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-50](#)).

Robby Nivarel submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-51](#)).

Aaron Pringle submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-52](#)).

Wayne Prosser submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-53](#)).

Anna Rowley submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-54](#)).

Scott Scrivner submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-55](#)).

Amy Shelton, Dispatcher, DPS, submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-56](#)).

Tommy van Oeveren submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-57](#)).

Mark Smith submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-58](#)).

Chris Walther, Game Warden, Department of Wildlife, submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-59](#)).

Allen Wooldridge, Division of State Parks, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-60](#)).

Jensen submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-61](#)).

Kelly Grondahl, Principal, Vegas Verdes Elementary School, Las Vegas, Nevada, submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-62](#)).

Elias Blood submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-63](#)).

Natalie Godinez submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-64](#)).

Olivia Leeder submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-65](#)).

Clara Maxam submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-66](#)).

Kaitlin Moore submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-67](#)).

Dawn K. Murphy submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-68](#)).

Paula Alexander-Leeder submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-69](#)).

Jayde Reid submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-70](#)).

Erica Ruud submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-71](#)).

Allison Schleicher, MPH, submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-72](#)).

Mirelle Zamudio submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-73](#)).

Ybarra submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-74](#)).

Robert Sinclair submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-75](#)).

Steve Zuelke, Retired Unemployment Insurance Manager, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation, submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-76](#)).

Alex Knaak submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-77](#)).

NancyAnn Leeder submitted written testimony for the record ([Exhibit B-78](#)).

Chair Carlton thanked LCB Broadcast Services and Production staff for managing the meeting.

G. ADJOURNMENT.

Chair Carlton adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton, Chair
Interim Finance Committee

Brenda Erdoes, Director, Legislative Counsel Bureau,
and Secretary, Interim Finance Committee