

Hello Interim Finance Committee,

My name is Innie Bayewumi. I am a 4th-year undergraduate student at the University of Nevada, Reno. As a public health major currently studying infant and early childhood development, I would like to comment and show support for the funding listed in items 93 and 94 on list G.2. These items request additional funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant funds that will go towards providing childcare assistance to essential workers.

I recently read the white paper released by the Division of Child and Family Services on the need to develop an Infant-Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) Association and Endorsement. The positive impact that investments in early childhood mental health screenings and interventions cannot be stressed enough. My own research into the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)—which 11.2% of Nevada infants and toddlers have scored a 2 or more in—highlights how critical it is that we provide families with as many tools as possible to support the social and emotional growth of Nevada's children.

Investments in the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Association will aid in the process of developing an integral foundation that will help guide a young child into adulthood. In addition to this, funds will also go towards training licensed mental health professionals that will be qualified in the area of Child-Parent Psychotherapy (CPP) which supports the needs of young children and their caregivers. I believe the additional Child Care Development Block Grant funds would help in serving pregnant people, infants aged 0-36 months, and their families.

Thank you for your time and for investing in Nevada's children and families.