

August 15, 2022

To: The State of Nevada Interim Finance Committee

Re: Public Comment for August 17th Meeting on Agenda Item F - 25

Good morning, Chair Denis, Vice-Chair Carlton and fellow Committee Members,

I, *Dennis Silkmitter*, am writing to express support in favor of the Grant A Gift Autism Foundation – Ackerman Center’s (GGAF Ackerman Center) \$8.5 Mil ARPA request. The incidence rate of an autism diagnosis is growing each year. In 2022, the CDC quoted that 1:44 children will receive an autism diagnosis. This diagnosis knows no socioeconomic bounds and affects all levels equally. Unfortunately, in the state of Nevada there are simply not enough specialist to provide this diagnosis and even fewer that accept state funded insurance plans, leaving thousands of families on waitlists that can span several years. It’s time to give support to those families and the community that can be served through the GGAF Ackerman Center.

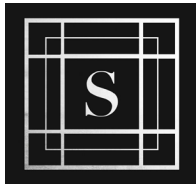
Not only have I been so lucky to be part of the start of Grant A Gift for Autism Foundation, donating my personal time planning many events in honor of their many goals to include providing family-centered case management at no cost to families, assisting with navigating the healthcare system. Also reducing wait times for an initial diagnosis from 9 to 18 months, ensuring individuals are receive a diagnosis as early as possible

The impact from these funds allotted will help countless families, beyond just receiving the diagnosis. It will help them perform better in school, start to receive the necessary therapies recommended, gain a better understanding of their diagnosis and when ready, help them find and obtain gainful employment.

ARPA funding provides a unique opportunity to rapidly make an impact in our State’s affordable access to quality behavioral, mental, and medical care.

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In honor of this cherished foundation, I truly appreciate your consideration on this matter.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Dennis Silknitter

Owner

Silknitter Event Consulting