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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, Michael Minden, am writing to express support in favor of the Grant A Gift Autism Foundation - Ackerman Center's \$8.5 Mil ARPA request.

I am the president of Michael E. Minden Diamond Jewelers in Las Vegas, Nevada. I've been in business for over 30 years and participate with other wonderful community leaders to lend support and guidance in our city-wide effort to help women and children. As an Advisory Board member for Touro University and a member of the Board of Directors for the Clark County Public Education Foundation, I have great familiarity with the needs and challenges of Autism. The Clark County School District is one of the largest school districts in the nation, and I am privy to the abundant amount of Autistic children in the system. There is a desperate need to train individuals and offer resources to educators, families, and students to help them navigate Autism. The Ackerman Center offers progressive programs and services to help navigate this crisis. This critical funding will allow the GGAF Ackerman Center to substantially increase access for Autism diagnosis, care, treatment, education, and resources. This funding will also allow the GGAF Ackerman Center to not only reach more families in Nevada, but will afford the opportunity to help the rest of the country with national research, improved treatment, and more resources for care.

In closing, there are presently few Community Leaders that can match the passion, dedication, reliability, and resources of Mr. Gary Ackerman. Gary Ackerman's dedication and leadership in the Autism initiative has had a successful profound impact on the infrastructure for Autism in the state of Nevada. Gary Ackerman's vision is the forefront of what our community needs, and we are proud to support him in all of his endeavors. The impact from these funds will help countless families in Nevada gain access to behavioral diagnosis, proper treatment, and needed quality medical care.

Receiving this grant will have the oversight you would expect, and the funds will be used for the purposes intended. The continued success of these programs and services are worthy of the highest consideration.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Michael E. Minden

Michael E. Minden Diamond Jewelers - President