

# CCEA

Clark County Education Association

the union  
of teaching  
professionals

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August 30, 2022

Joint Interim Committee on Education  
Grant Sawyer State Office Building  
555 East Washington Avenue  
Las Vegas, Nevada

**Re: Public Comment on Items 3 and 51**

Good afternoon Chair Denis and Members of the Committee,

My name is Francesca Petrucci and I represent the Clark County Education Association. CCEA represents the 18,000 licensed professionals in the Clark County School District.

CCEA supports Item 3 which encourages the creation of a workforce development fund that will match contributions from industrial partners in order to promote industry-led workforce development and ensure investment is tied to regional economic needs. Additionally, granting GOED authority to carry forward unspent workforce dollars ensures we are using those dollars resourcefully to up-skill our workforce. CCEA also supports Item 5, which codifies public-private partnerships at the university level. This would remove the red tape that has historically come with partnership and encourage efficient collaboration between industry and university. More collaboration means more students who are ready to enter our workforce.

From the 2008 economic downturn to the 2020 Covid crash, our lesson remains the same: we must diversify our economy. When the strip went dark, 30% of our workforce went unemployed, the highest rate in the nation. In 2008, the crash left 7 out of 10 homeowners nursing negative equity. Nevada's disproportionate vulnerability to the economic tides of the moment calls for a transformation in how we conduct business. That starts with making sure we have an educated workforce to attract and retain new industries.

To aid in Nevada's economic transformation, CCEA has commissioned UNR and Columbia University to assess our state's assets, workforce pipelines, K-12 education system, and regulatory environment which will ultimately produce legislative proposals centered on improving our workforce and strengthening the economy. Phase 1 of the study has just wrapped and we look forward to sharing this work with members of the committee.

Thank you,

Francesca Petrucci