



Thursday, December 15, 2022

Interim Finance Committee members,

The Nevada Police Union strongly supports the Governor Finance Office's request to utilize American Rescue Plan Act funding to reimburse State of Nevada employees who were directed to take furlough leave from January 1 through June 30, 2021.

As you know, your Nevada state police continuously worked in the field through the COVID-19 pandemic, while many employees were able to work from the safety of their homes. Our job is to protect and preserve the public safety of Nevadans and visitors, regardless of distress or danger, and we proudly did that to the best of our ability.

The pay decrease from furloughs exacerbated a state police pay inequity of 25%-50% below our counterparts at the city and county level. In addition to mandating furloughs, the state increased our Public Employees' Retirement System and health insurance costs, and reduced our uniform allowances. It's because of this, that state police are experiencing record-high turnover and vacancy rates. Reimbursement for the 2021 furlough leave would provide a much needed temporary relief to our members.

Further, we are in desperate need of an addressment of the drastic pay inequity that's creating critical shortages of state police. A significant change in pay scale is immediately needed to maintain continuity of the workforce, retain more experienced police officers, and improve employee morale and culture. A more professional and properly resourced police force increases the safety and security of Nevada communities.

Sincerely,

Daniel Gordon

President of Nevada Police Union

**The Nevada Police Union provides for the protection and well-being of Nevada's peace officers and public safety employees through representation in matters related to compensation, benefits, and working conditions to ensure our communities receive the highest level of service. Established in 1972 and unionized in 2020, the Nevada Police Union includes highway patrol troopers, parole and probation officers, fire marshals, detectives, game wardens, park rangers, university police, capitol police, agricultural police, dispatchers, and retired state police. To learn more, please visit nevadapoliceunion.com.*