

June 12, 2023

Chair Monroe-Moreno, Vice Chair Dondero Loop, and Esteemed Legislative Members of the Interim Finance Committee:

I am a product of a Nevada education and an ARL teacher. I have graduated from University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) several times. I have also attended and graduated from the Public Education Foundation (PEF) Teacher Leadership program and was a part of the Mentoring Team for preparing paraprofessionals to become teachers. As a current teacher I have seen the benefits to our student population to help recruit, prepare, and retain quality teachers into our classrooms. These are professionals that have already shown a drive and love of our student population and only want to be on the front lines to help their growth.

As part of this effort, I am proud to support PEF's request for \$466,662 of T-Mobile settlement funds to support future classroom teachers through PEF's Teacher Pathway program.

Currently, UNLV and PEF are working together to better prepare school paraprofessionals and high school students to succeed in and graduate from UNLV teacher preparation programs. UNLV's Paraprofessional Pathways Program (PPP) has an astounding 92% graduation rate. Leaders of the program attribute that to the wraparound services provided to students before, during and after participating in the program. One of those services is PEF's Teacher Pathway, which prepares paraprofessionals to enter the UNLV PPP program.

PEF is also working with UNLV and the Clark County Education Association to provide postprogram support to these teachers for their first three years in the classroom with a goal to increase three-year teacher retention rates.

I am proud to share my support for PEF's request for funding and strongly encourage the Committee's support of this initiative. I appreciate your dedicated work and your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tina Jacobson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tina" being more prominent.

Tina Jacobson, MS, M.Ed,