

Dear Members of the Interim Finance Committee,

My name is Sara Choat.

Please approve item F to allocate funding for the opportunity scholarships.

Public education is not a one size fits all program. Families who do not fit this mold are given other choices for their children through the avenue of private schooling. Unfortunately, due to the high cost of operating a school, this education option is out of reach for families who are on a limited budget due to a minimal household income.

Through the diminishing Nevada Opportunity Scholarship fund, approximately 1,400 Nevada children from families who fall below the 300% federal poverty level have been given an education that best fits their needs. Sadly, over 500 of these students are now threatened with being pulled out of their school in the next few weeks due to shortfalls in funding. Don't let this happen! For the sake of these students, who deserve the right to receive an education that best fits their needs regardless of their family income bracket, I implore you to approve item F to allocate funding for these opportunity scholarships.

Keep these kids in their classrooms. They need your support. Approve the funding allocation in item F.

Thank you.