



Today we are here to advocate for families who were forgotten in the last legislative session. The state of Nevada has some of the worst academic outcomes in the nation. In spite of massive funding increases since 2015, our schools have not shown measurable improvement. Wealthier families can flee a failing public school and choose a better environment for their children through charter or private school options. Less fortunate families are relegated to whatever school is assigned to them according to their zip code. This means that lower income families have fewer educational opportunities. Now these kids, who have found the classroom that works for them, stand to lose their scholarships and arguably the opportunity to succeed in school. They are facing the risk of being sent back to the school they fled in search of a better learning environment.

The overwhelming majority of evidence shows that school choice programs get results not only for those who participate but also for the students in public schools by increasing competition and lowering class sizes to reduce the burden on teachers. Choice also saves taxpayer funds and reduces socioeconomic and racial divisions.

CCSD currently has more than 1000 teacher vacancies. If these kids lose their scholarships, they will likely be sent back to a classroom that is already overcrowded and may not have a licensed teacher.

Parents in Nevada overwhelmingly support these families who benefit from Opportunity Scholarships. Rather than gutting this program over time, we should be looking for ways to improve academic outcomes by expanding education choice for low income families. Opportunity Scholarships improve education, reduce socio-economic division and lessen the burden on a public schools system that is struggling to serve the unique learning needs of every child.

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