

**From:** [kennedy](#)  
**To:** [Interim Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony for Interim Finance Committee Meeting  
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Hello Nevada Interim Finance Committee,

My name is Kennedy Mahnesmith and I am a 24 year old born and raised Nevada resident. For as long as I can remember I have wanted to become a veterinarian. As an undergraduate at The University of Nevada, Las Vegas, I was on the pre-veterinary and pre-professional track. When I first decided to attend UNLV, one of the biggest factors for me was the WICHE program. Through the WICHE program, Nevada residents were eligible for in-state application and tuition for veterinary schools in Colorado, Arizona, Oregon, and Washington. Due to COVID-19 and other factors, Nevada backed out of the WICHE program for veterinary schools. This left Nevada residents interested in veterinary medicine with zero in-state options. The probability of getting into one of the 39 American veterinary schools is about 9%. Each veterinary school accepts about 100-150 students each year, with only about 20% of these spots going to out of state students. Despite having over 5,000 hours of veterinary experience and holding a Bachelor's degree in Biology with a 3.4 GPA, achieving my dream of becoming a veterinarian is nearly impossible as a Nevada resident. When I eventually become a veterinarian, I plan to return to my home state of Nevada to further the veterinary community. Without the contract with Utah, presented in item H, I fear I may never have an option to attend veterinary school in the United States. The only other option for me would be school outside of the country that can cost up to 200 thousand more dollars to attend. I ask you to please consider the request to enter a contract with Utah State University in item H for my future and many young Nevadans like me.

Thank you