



**FAMILY DIVISION**  
**FAMILY COURTS & SERVICES CENTER**  
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LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101-2408

Department I  
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Sunny Bailey  
DISTRICT JUDGE

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December 11, 2024

Dear Members of the Interim Finance Committee,

For the record, my name is Soonhee (Sunny) Bailey, I currently serve as a Judge in the Eighth Judicial District Court Family Division in Clark County. I am here in support of agenda item N, specifically list item N.57, Work Program #C73024, Department of Health and Human Services – Director’s Office – Fund for Resilient Nevada- FY 2025.

In 2018, I created the Detention Alternative for Autistic Youth (DAAY) Court, a diversionary court aimed at helping autistic youth or those youth with suspected autism remain out of the juvenile and criminal justice system by assisting access to appropriate accommodations and supports. This court recognized at its inception that a number of youth became involved in the juvenile justice system with characteristics of autism but lacked the correct diagnosis. Occasionally, parents provided documentation of the autism diagnosis. However, we wrongfully assumed youth charged with an offense were already identified by the school system, psychiatrists or psychologists if they youth met the DSM criteria. Unfortunately, this is simply not the case in my experience. As a result, these youth tend to fall through the cracks, often misdiagnosed, and failed to receive the services they desperately needed. Many of these youth were also later diagnosed with FASD.

The Eighth Judicial District Court has seen an increase in youth with suspected FASD or diagnosed with FASD in both dependency and delinquency case types. A 2018 study reported up to one in twenty U.S. school-aged children may have FASD. The CDC through use of medical and other records have identified one infant with FAS for every one thousand live births. The lifetime cost to care for an individual with FASD was estimated at two million dollars and the annual cost to the United States related to FASD is over four billion dollars.

Therefore, the Eighth Judicial District Court seeks to collaborate with the Department of Health and Human Services and all the partners listed in our project to fill a much needed gap in the continuum of services available to our abuse and neglect and delinquency system. The project before you is called the NEAT Court (Neurodiverse Education and Advocacy for Treatment in Court). This program improves timeliness and equal access to justice for youth suspected of gestational substance use, including, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). The NEAT Court will provide neuropsychological, psychiatric, and/ or cognitive testing to determine if there is an FASD-ASD diagnosis and clinical recommendations to best support the youth and family as well as evidence-based treatment for youth diagnosed with FASD or ASD.

Thank you for your consideration for this project, one that remains near and dear to my heart.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Sunny Bailey*

Hon. Sunny Bailey,  
Clark County District Court, Nevada  
Eighth Judicial, Family Division