

May 14, 2015

Dear Chairman Kieckhefer and members of the Senate Finance Committee,

On behalf of the 24,000 teacher and education support professional members of the Nevada State Education Association, we express opposition to Senate Bill 302 relating to private school savings accounts for students attending private schools.

SB 302 would directly allocate state general funds from Nevada's public schools to fund tuition costs for private school attendance. The method by which tuition vouchers would be issued to parents enrolling children in private schools would also divert taxpayer funds toward financial holding fees.

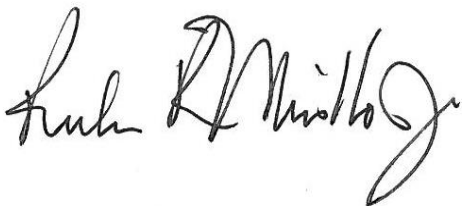
When any ratio of tax payer dollars, such as the 90% basic allotment per student proposed by SB 302 are diverted from public schools, costs rise for school districts due to fixed facility, maintenance, operations, and personnel costs.

Nevada's public schools remain severely under-funded. The Governor's proposed education budget would take responsible first steps toward adequately funding identified student support needs. The school bond rollover legislation passed this session and signed by the Governor will also help address a portion of underfunded facility needs.

However, the abundant number of overcrowded and aging campuses, high class sizes in middle and high schools, hundreds of unfilled licensed teaching positions, and an 81% non-compliance rate of the elementary class size limit law all point to the fact that Nevada's public schools remain under-funded.

SB 302 is a bill that Nevada tax payers should not be required to afford for private school interests. NSEA urges the committee to vote no on SB 302.

Sincerely,



Ruben Murillo, Jr.  
President, Nevada State Education Association

cc: Mike Horner, President, Washoe Education Support Professionals  
Dana Galvin, President, Washoe Education Association  
Susan Lacey, President, UniServ Council of Nevada  
Doug McCain, President, Education Support Employees Association  
Vikki Courtney, President, Clark County Education Association