AJR2 SUPPORT

Date: May 15, 2019
To: Senate Committee on Legislative Operations
Re: NSEA Support for AJR2

The Nevada State Education Association represents teachers and education support professionals across the state. We believe that every Nevada student deserves a high-quality public education.

NSEA supports AJR2 to amend the Nevada State Constitution to ensure marriage equality.

NSEA has been in support of AJR2 since its introduction by Assemblymember Araujo in 2017. We appreciate Assemblymember Jaregui for continuing on this path to enact a measure of equality and social justice in the Nevada State Constitution.

NSEA is the state affiliate of the National Education Association who, along with labor allies, filed an amicus brief in Obergefell v. Hodges stating discrimination against same sex couples deprives such couples of an array of economic benefits and legal rights, and deprives them and their children of fundamental dignity, benefits and rights that other couples and their families enjoy.

We know that on June 26, 2015, the U.S. Supreme Court decision was a monumental step forward toward justice by making marriage equality the law in every state of our great nation. The struggle to end discrimination against same sex couples has been long and continues today. Language in our state constitution defining marriage to the exclusion of many Nevada educators and families of the students we educate is a stain on our state that needs to be corrected.

Passing AJR2 and amending the state constitution is another important step for the dignity of educators from same sex families.