

**March 29, 2019**

Senate Education Committee, Nevada Legislature, 80th session (2019)

**RE: Opposition Testimony of SB321**

Chair Denis and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jana Wilcox Lavin on behalf of Opportunity 180, and as a mother who lives in the school zone of a two-star, downward trending school. I am here testifying in opposition to SB321.

At Opportunity 180, we believe every kid should have access to a great public school in their neighborhood.

We have three specific concerns with SB321:

1. **Accountability.** The Achievement School District serves as the ultimate accountability mechanism for schools that have chronically and consistently not lived up to their promise of a free **quality** public education. There are close to 50,000 students in schools eligible to be converted to Achievement Charter Schools--for reference, 50,000 kids would almost fill our brand new Raiders Stadium. If we abolish the Achievement School District, how will we ensure those kids get what they deserve?

**2. Empowering Parents.** Under the Achievement School District, parents have the option for a parent petition. Through this petition, parents can take action against a school that they believe is systematically not serving their kids. With the petition, families have the power to demand change. Without the Achievement School District's parent petition, what tools will parents have to truly demand what they believe their kids deserve?

**3. Ensuring a Great School in Every Neighborhood.** Public neighborhood charter schools under the Nevada Achievement School District (NV ASD) are playing the role of offering families a high-quality option in their neighborhood. They also provide relief to nearby overcrowded schools that have reached as much as 150% capacity. Without these choices, are we saying to families that they have to make due with the schools they chose to leave?

As the adults who have the power and responsibility to make sure that every kid is given every opportunity, we should ask ourselves every morning: "Did I do everything in my power to give every kid every opportunity?"

As you consider this bill, I challenge each of you to answer that question for yourself.