

SB 177
Opposition Statement
Henry and Rachel Sneed

To whom it may concern:

As wedding chapel owners, we are deeply concerned about this new bill. With the COVID restrictions and general fears about travel, we saw a huge downturn last year.

We also know several chapels have already closed due to the impact of Covid restrictions. As wedding chapel owners - going on our sixth year in business - we can say without equivocation - a hike this large to purchase a wedding license will negatively impact the entire industry and the ripple affect will be devastating for the economy here in Las Vegas.

Nationwide, people already have budget issues due to the impact of Covid, so to now propose a bill with almost a 30% hike in cost to one of the only industries that brings people to Las Vegas at a steady and consistent rate, would be inadvisable.

We recommend that you table this for a later date and allow the Las Vegas economy to recover or seek other means for funding (we have an idea outlined below).

While we support you in your ambition to fund these worthy charities that deal with and support families experiencing domestic violence, we would suggest an alternate means to this end.

For example, if you added a \$2 tax to every vehicle registered within the state of Nevada, including businesses and private vehicles, this would not in anyway impede people from registering their vehicles and \$2 would barely be felt by anyone. Confidently, we believe this alone would raise millions of dollars for these organizations which we agree are worth supporting.

Please do not saddle this burden on the wedding industry. A price hike that great will become a deterrent and would cause people to reconsider.

From experience (pre Covid) we tried a price hike to our packages (roughly 30%). We lost so much business, it took us two years to recover. Clark County sells about 55,000 licenses per year. If you lose that business and count on that to fund these endeavors, you may very well lose more money in the long run.

The impact could be devastating and potentially far reaching - hotels, restaurants, casinos, bars, gaming, photography companies, chapels, bakeries, florists, suppliers - all count on the wedding industry attracting people.

THE main attraction for Vegas weddings is still price, price, price - and ease. But mostly PRICE! Please reconsider.

Kind regards,

Henry and Rachel Sneed
The Lucky Little Wedding Chapel