



April 7, 2021

RE: Testimony in **Opposition to Assembly Bill 126** of the 2021 Nevada Legislature

Members of the Assembly Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections:

On behalf of Republicans in the great State of Nevada, I would like to communicate our strong opposition of Assembly Bill 126.

A caucus is generally defined as a “gathering of neighbors.” Nevada is a small state, with an outsize influence. Our citizens are proud, hard-working, and diverse. One of the many benefits of our current caucus system is that it brings neighbors together. Politics have a human face, as neighbors represent their preferred candidate and dedicate their time, energy, and passion to see them represented all the way to the state level. Caucuses are the product of an engaged citizenry—and Nevada deserves more engaged citizens.

Should this bill pass, our large influence on the nominating process is likely to diminish. When Democrats in Florida attempted to move their primary in 2007, the DNC stripped Florida of all its national delegates¹. This move would violate both Democrat and GOP party rules, resulting in penalties lessening our voice. We do recognize that Jason Frierson’s caucus has had considerable difficulties. Our own caucuses have had a learning curve, and we would be happy to share our best practices. We hope that our Democrat neighbors reconsider and opt to learn from the other side, rather than throw the baby out with the bathwater. Additionally, this move will shift the cost of nomination from the parties to the state, at an estimated cost of \$5 million. Our state has the highest unemployment and one of the worst education systems—why would we spend money to fix something that is not broken?

There is no reason to move our caucus. First in the West is a title we have been proud to wear, and we believe it should continue. Nevada is a battle born—and battleground—state. Trying to play chicken with primary dates is not a battle we will win.

Finally, we would respectfully request that the members under litigation for a Constitutional violation of the separation of powers clause (Article 3, Section 1, Nevada Constitution) for their concurrent employment with government agencies while being state legislators—recuse themselves until the litigation is settled or they have fully resolved their violation of the Nevada Constitution.

The powers of the Government of the State of Nevada shall be divided into three separate departments, the Legislature, the Executive and the Judicial; and no person charged with the exercise of powers properly belonging to one of these departments shall exercise any functions, appertaining to either of the others, except in the cases expressly directed or permitted in this constitution. Nevada Const. Art. 3, §1, ¶1.



For these reasons, the Nevada Republican Party strongly opposes AB126.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. McDonald". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue and red background that is part of the Nevada Republican Party logo.

Chairman Michael J. McDonald

ⁱ "Democrats Strip Florida of Primary Delegates" <<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/story?id=3524512&page=1>>

A large, faded version of the Nevada Republican Party logo, centered on the page. It features the stylized American flag, the word "NEVADA" in large blue letters, "REPUBLICAN PARTY" in red letters, and "CHAIRMAN MICHAEL J. MCDONALD" in blue letters at the bottom.