

**MINUTES OF THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

**Eighty-second Session  
April 5, 2023**

The Senate Committee on Judiciary was called to order by Chair Melanie Scheible at 1:02 p.m. on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, in Room 2135 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4412 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Senator Melanie Scheible, Chair  
Senator Dallas Harris, Vice Chair  
Senator James Ohrenschall  
Senator Marilyn Dondero Loop  
Senator Rochelle T. Nguyen  
Senator Ira Hansen  
Senator Lisa Krasner  
Senator Jeff Stone

**GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:**

Senator Fabian Doñate, Senatorial District No. 10

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Patrick Guinan, Policy Analyst  
Karly O'Krent, Counsel  
Kelsey DeLozier, Counsel  
Pat Devereux, Committee Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Samantha Bivins  
Annette Magnus, Executive Director, Battle Born Progress  
Keenan Korth, Clark County Education Association  
John T. Jones, Jr., Nevada District Attorneys Association

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Vanessa Dunn, Nevada Public Health Association  
Susan Proffitt  
Leslie Quinn  
Cyrus Hojjaty

CHAIR SCHEIBLE:  
We will open the work session on five bills.

PATRICK GUINAN (Policy Analyst):  
Senate Bill (S.B.) 36 adds solicitation of a child for prostitution to the list of sexual offenses requiring psychosexual evaluation and certification that the person convicted of the offense does not represent a high risk to reoffend if a defendant is convicted of a felony other than a sexual offense or of a gross misdemeanor for which the sentence may be suspended or probation granted.

**SENATE BILL 36**: Revises provisions relating to psychosexual evaluations for sexual offenses and other crimes. (BDR 14-424)

An amendment in the work session document ([Exhibit C](#)) was proposed by the Office of the Attorney General. It clarifies the provisions in section 2, subsection 5 of S.B. 36 only apply if the original charge was for a sexual offense as defined in statute.

SENATOR DONDERO LOOP MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 36.

SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. GUINAN:  
The next work session bill is S.B. 55, which adds justice and municipal courts to the list of courts prohibited from being open or transacting business on a Sunday or a holiday.

**SENATE BILL 55**: Revises various provisions relating to courts. (BDR 1-432)

It revises the fees a justice court may charge for conducting searches of electronic or physical records and for redacted personal identifying information before disseminating certain records. It changes the title of deputy clerk to clerk of the court and revises provisions governing the exercise of duties and liability of clerks. The bill revises provisions under which a criminal case may be transferred from one justice court to another and provides a court must grant a credit of not less than the State minimum wage for a person who performs community service as required by the court.

The proposed amendment in the work session document ([Exhibit D](#)) from the Judicial Branch strikes section 1 of the bill regarding hours of operation for justice courts and section 3 regarding fees described above.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 55.

SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. GUINAN:

Senate Bill 62, which is next on the work session, provides an appointing authority may not name a person to serve as a member of the Commission on Judicial Discipline who has served at least two consecutive full terms.

**SENATE BILL 62**: Revises provisions relating to the Commission on Judicial Discipline. (BDR 1-437)

A proposed amendment in the work session document ([Exhibit E](#)) from the Judicial Branch replaces contents in the bill to clarify the disciplinary jurisdictions of the State Bar and the Commission on Judicial Discipline for attorney judges. The new language provides "The Commission's jurisdiction with respect to attorney judges begins when the judge is sworn in. The State Bar of Nevada retains jurisdiction over matters that occurred prior to the assumption of office."

SENATOR HARRIS MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED  
S.B. 62.

SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. GUINAN:

Next, Senate Bill 67 revises the definition of sexual offense in portions of Chapter 213 of *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) relating to parole for persons convicted of a sexual offense to make the definition consistent with that found elsewhere in NRS. The work session document ([Exhibit F](#)) indicates no amendments.

**SENATE BILL 67**: Revises the definition of the term “sexual offense” for the purpose of certain provisions relating to parole. (BDR 16-258)

SENATOR STONE MOVED TO DO PASS S.B. 67.

SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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MR. GUINAN:

Next, Senate Bill 234 directs the Nevada Department of Corrections (DOC) to the extent money is available to establish and administer a pilot program to provide free communications services between offenders in DOC facilities and their children.

**SENATE BILL 234**: Revises provisions governing communications with offenders. (BDR S-810)

The bill allows DOC to accept gifts, grants and other forms of donations to carry out the program. It requires the DOC Director to provide the Legislature with a report on the pilot program prior to the Eighty-third Legislative Session.

The proposed amendment in the work session document ([Exhibit G](#)) adds funding as needed from the Offenders' Store Fund to make up any deficiencies in funds gathered through grants, donations, etc. It also requires the Director to report additional information regarding how many children used the program, which grants were applied for and received by DOC and any statistical information regarding differences in conduct and disciplinary issues between offenders whose children use the pilot program and those whose children did not. The amendment adds the clarifying phrase "two-way voice and/or video communication" to section 1, subsection 6, paragraph (b) of the bill.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL MOVED TO AMEND AND DO PASS AS AMENDED S.B. 234.

SENATOR NGUYEN SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR SCHEIBLE:

We will close the work session and open the hearing on S.B. 294.

**SENATE BILL 294**: Revises provisions relating to the safe storage of firearms.  
(BDR 15-47)

SENATOR FABIAN DOÑATE (Senatorial District No. 10):

Senate Bill 294 revises provisions relating to firearm safe storage requirements and school safety. There are countless examples of what we will talk about today: Robb Elementary School; Sandy Hook Elementary School; Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University; University of Texas, Austin; Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School and—just a few short days ago—The Covenant School.

Over and over, we have encountered the issue of gun violence in schools, yet never have our efforts been enough to solve the issue. We go back and forth on whether to provide more mental health services and if there are commonsense reforms. That is not nearly enough to stop or help prevent the outcomes we are seeing in our society.

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Gun violence in this Country is a public health crisis. Through S.B. 294, we hope to make progress in addressing an issue needing some level of commonsense reforms.

You have a copy of my presentation, "Safe Storage and School Safety" ([Exhibit H](#) contains copyrighted material. Original is available upon request of the Research Library.). Senate Bill 294 will require a licensed dealer to provide a locking device capable of securing a firearm with each sale or transfer thereof. The bill will require licensed gun dealers to post a notice on their premises informing buyers the unlawful storage of a firearm may result in imprisonment or fines. Senate Bill 294 requires each school district board or governing body to adopt regulations regarding trauma information and age-appropriate resources for students and faculty.

The Department of Health and Human Services is required to develop and implement a safe firearm storage education campaign. The Nevada State Storage Act, page 4 of [Exhibit H](#), A.B. No. 291 of the 80th Session was enacted into law by Governor Steve Sisolak. It is a misdemeanor offense to negligently store or leave a firearm at a location not under a person's control if the person knows or has reason to know there is a substantial risk to a child. Page 4 of [Exhibit H](#) reiterates Nevada does not have a law requiring unattended firearms to be stored in a certain way. We also do not require a locking device to accompany the sale of a firearm or require firearm owners to affirmatively lock their weapons.

Let us be clear on one thing: my goal is to establish the connection between gun violence and public health. I recognize that other bills this Session seek to address this issue in other capacities. There is an underlying, repeated truth: statistics show the devastating impact of gun violence on children and adolescents. Firearm injuries and deaths in the United States have substantially increased, becoming the leading cause of death among children aged 19 and less. The Committee needs to know the statistics gathered on gun violence that paint the reality of what is happening in these encounters.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, pages 5 and 6 of [Exhibit H](#), firearms are the leading cause of death among U.S. children. Gun violence has negative ramifications on the mental health and well-being of our children. According to recent data, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, there was an increase in firearm-related deaths among children, making the seriousness of the issue even

more relevant. Assaults have accounted for at least half of all youth firearm deaths while suicides by firearm have accounted for at least three in ten of those deaths. Those are sobering numbers that deserve pause and reflection.

When we talk about children exposed to gun violence and the adverse effects of firearms, some encounters can lead to negative health outcomes, based on research released in recent years and outlined by the Kaiser Family Foundation. The cases with negative health outcomes due to gun violence are in households that experience domestic violence, have firearms stored at home or have children exposed to neighborhood and school violence.

Children exposed to gun violence are predisposed to certain conditions or aftereffects. Research has shown survivors exposed to gun violence may be at increased risk of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, other mental health conditions and substance use disorders. The chart on page 8 of [Exhibit H](#) lists the provisional data of firearm-related deaths per 100,000 U.S. children and adolescents between 2011 and 2021. It reflects the issue has been exacerbated in recent years, which is why policy actions should consider commonsense reforms to address this public health issue.

According to data gathered from a Centers for Diseases Control WONDER database, page 9 of [Exhibit H](#), the number of deaths due to suicide among children and adolescents from 2011 to 2021 by firearms or other means has had an exponential increase.

As per page 10 of [Exhibit H](#), a 2018 study released by the U.S. Department of Education found in communities with exposures to shootings that the majority of teenagers and their parents felt at least somewhat concerned or worried that a school shooting may happen to their siblings and children. When we fail to address these stressors or are inadequately prepared for school encounters, it can lead to absenteeism, grade-level repetition, reduced high school graduation rates, reduced college enrollment, et cetera. There is a clear academic consequence when we do not prepare the right resources for how our students deal with gun violence.

The fact of the matter is gun violence is occurring. We can talk about how the issue plays out and how legislative policy comes into it, but the reality is we are encountering it whether or not we acknowledge it.

According to the map on page 11 of [Exhibit H](#), as of 2021, 11 states had passed laws involving firearm-locking devices included at the point of sale. Massachusetts and Oregon have enacted legislation requiring firearms to be stored with a lock in place. California, Colorado, Connecticut and New York have passed laws mandating gun-locking requirements in certain situations. Other states have provisions for certain standards locking devices must meet.

Why is this conversation relevant? Page 12 of [Exhibit H](#) states between August 2022 and February 2023, preliminary data shared by the Clark County School District (CCSD) listed 29 encounters with BB and air guns and at least 26 encounters with handguns. Most encounters were in high schools, with a few instances in elementary and middle schools. It is frightening to realize a child—possibly less than aged 11—would bring a gun to school in our own backyard.

It is important to share how gun violence impacts our entire State, page 13 of [Exhibit H](#). Between 2014 and 2018, firearms were listed as the leading cause of death among Nevada children and teens. An average of 36 children and teens die by gun violence every year; 53 percent of these deaths are homicides.

In public health, we say every death is preventable. Here is the hard part of [S.B. 294](#): I can share statistics and numbers and how the prevalence of firearms injury and death has increased. None of that matters because if we do not do anything about it or find strategies to come together and work on it, the issue is going to continue.

On March 29, while the Senate Committee on Education was meeting, CCSD police and the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department mobilized at Shadow Ridge High School after reports of a student with a gun on campus, pages 14 and 15 of [Exhibit H](#). We know this is a common occurrence, according to page 5. Tweets by Joe Moeller of KTVN in southern Nevada said,

This was the scene as students rushed out of the Shadow Ridge HS campus, many running up hugging their parents. Some students had tears in their eyes. Several parents shared frustrations with me about the communication from @ClarkCountySch some say they didn't get an email update at all, others were frustrated there wasn't more communication throughout the lockdown.



Obviously, there are some improvements to be made. The job of Legislators is to ensure parents, guardians and community members are aware of firearms emergencies and that authorities appropriately respond. It was shameful for me to see Twitter images of students hiding underneath their desks while SWAT teams patrolled their high school. That scenario is what S.B. 294 aims to resolve.

In the proposed conceptual amendment ([Exhibit I](#)) itemized on page 16 of [Exhibit H](#), section 3 of the bill is replaced with the original NRS language adopted in 2019, which is not reflected in section 6. Rather than relitigate that fight, let us establish we do not want to go back to how that conversation played out.

In sections 8 and 9 of the bill, the language on active shooter preparedness is removed. Instead, we require the board of trustees of each school district to take certain actions outlined in the conceptual amendment. If the school district has police officers under its jurisdiction, they will be required to receive training to perform active assailant techniques or collaborate with other law enforcement jurisdictions in joint exercises to perform active shooter techniques. The majority of these officers are in Washoe County and Clark County.

If a school district lacks that capacity, it must create its own response program or coordinate with other law enforcement agencies in the same way it prepares for other emergencies.

In the proposed amendment, [Exhibit I](#), a new subsection is added to section 8 of the bill. It requires school districts with 50,000-plus pupils to develop a plan to facilitate coordination of active assailant training with law enforcement agencies, public safety organizations, school administrators and appropriate staff personnel. This codifies what CCSD already does. We want to make sure administrators in each school identify the appropriate staff personnel to respond in these situations and coordinate with law enforcement so everyone knows how incidents may play out.

This is important because we do not want a situation in which schools respond in different ways. In other encounters in this Country, we have seen when schools fail to coordinate with one another or prepare identically for circumstances, consequences arise with responses. School districts' response

plans should use trauma-informed, age-appropriate recommendations to develop strategies on supporting students and faculty exposed to gun violence.

I have been asked if S.B. 294 will be a way for peace officers to go to schools and educate students as to why they should take preparedness more seriously. Perhaps when parents are unable to have those conversations with children or if they do not have firearms at home, is this a way we can continue education? The bill provides an appropriate response that could be examined by school districts.

Larger school districts need to review their communication structures for parents and guardians during emergencies. Many families have reiterated that frustration: they do not receive notification of incidents until afterward or perhaps notifications are sent to a single app, which not everyone has. When I was at my university, whenever we encountered a lockdown or if there was a situation on campus, we received a notification via text or email—only if we had the correct app.

This is an opportunity to make sure parents are engaged and know the situations their kids could encounter. We owe it to our constituents to have that conversation if it has not already occurred. These are commonsense reforms to reduce the prevalence of firearms brought onto campuses and the trauma being experienced by faculty and students.

SAMANTHA BIVINS:

You have my introductory remarks ([Exhibit J](#)). I am a Gold Star wife of a combat marine and a Blue Star mom of an army infantryman. I am the executive officer of the 31st Combat Training Squadron Virtual Test and Training Center at Nellis Air Force Base.

As a mother of four and a grandmother, I understand this training is not a one-size-fits-all task. We must be mindful to tailor the message being delivered specifically to the grades and age levels of students who are receiving it. Coming from a psychology background, I do not believe it is traumatizing for children to receive this information. Most people here have received emergency response training such as fire drills and actions to take during an earthquake, hurricane or tornado. That same training provides the necessary tools needed to respond in a firearm-related incident.

The training should be a collaborative effort between school police and local law enforcement. Police officers possess extensive skills in training that can directly benefit school police and bolster their ability to neutralize volatile situations.

As the owner of firearms and living in a home with several school-aged children, I take my responsibility to safely storing weapons seriously. Safe storage is not simply placing a firearm in a drawer; rather, it entails locking it up and placing it in a small portable case or a gun safe.

Senator Doñate provided alarming statistics for school incidents involving firearms, [Exhibit H](#). Curtailing ownership of firearms is not the solution; however, we know we cannot stand by as more people die. Providing active shooter training to students and faculty, mandating firearm-locking devices at the time of purchase and imposing consequences for the failure to safely store firearms can save lives.

Suicide prevention training is also addressed in [S.B. 294](#). As someone who has worked extensively with the veteran community for several years, I have experienced the benefits of this training firsthand. Since completing safeTALK suicide prevention training, I have identified individuals suffering from a mental health crisis. Before the situation escalates, we need to teach school faculty to look for signs indicating an impending crisis, as well as provide services for people affected by suicides. The key to curbing suicide lies in prevention, not reaction.

Having drafted and presented legislation before this Body, I learned although having a bill come to fruition can be difficult and contentious, the process can have a positive outcome. We all agree we want to see children protected and kept out of harm's way if we diligently and persistently work toward that goal.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL:

You talked about some of the adverse, toxic experiences so many children have had with firearms. With your background in public health, do you think those traumatic incidents may lead to a lifetime of dealing with those issues? If something like your bill does not pass and this keeps happening, are we going to have kids dealing with the trauma they have suffered throughout their lives?

SENATOR DOÑATE:

A 2022 study found trauma suffered during school shootings impacts students' human capital. It established there are economic consequences after a child experiences a level of gun violence at school, in the community or at home. The study involved researchers following students after they graduated. If they were involved in a classroom shooting or in some capacity in a shooting at their schools, there were consequences while they were enrolled in school. In college, they suffered from anxiety and PTSD from the encounters experienced in high school.

The consequences of gun trauma led to medium-income levels that perhaps were not a disparity because of the consequences they had from the emotional outcomes they experienced.

SENATOR HANSEN:

You said firearms are the leading cause of death for young people. It is true there was a rise in deaths from 2021 to 2022. What has not been mentioned is the dramatic dropoff in the traditional highest category of young deaths: motor vehicle collisions. There has been a slight uptick in the homicide rate among children.

If you look at the firearm-related deaths in the chart on page 8 of [Exhibit H](#), the spike corresponds almost perfectly with the same time we had an effort in our Country to defund the police. During a decline in law enforcement efforts, there was an increase in the number of homicides involving children.

The homicide spike is in gang-related of killings of teens aged 15 to 19. The victims are disproportionately Black inner-city kids involved in gang shootings. That needs to be recognized when you average it and take those factors into account. The rise in children's firearms deaths has not been that big of a deal.

There has also been a spike in youth suicides, but that is disproportionately white kids killing themselves. The decline in gun violence in the United States, as far as criminal activity, has gone down where you have conceal-carry weapons access, including here.

This Committee recently had a hearing in which school police were attacked for being too aggressive. I do not know how those poor guys can operate because on one hand we are telling them, "Back off because you are throwing kids on

the ground and bouncing their heads off the sidewalk.” On the other hand, we are telling officers, “You are not doing enough because we had 36 kids with handguns in the schools.”

As I look at the whole scenario, while it is okay to call it a public health crisis, there are many other factors such as gang activity and single-parent household problems whereby kids do not have fathers in their homes. When you did these analyses, did you factor in some of those things? Gun violence is not just a public health problem.

SENATOR DOÑATE:

Sentiments you shared have been reiterated in the public health data I reviewed, specifically by the Kaiser Family Foundation. This Session, other bills look at mental health outcomes and how the COVID-19 lockdown affected children. Because children were at home more, we could argue that caused the escalation in their homicides. The reality is it exists.

The Kaiser Family Foundation report did not parse out whether minority children experienced higher firearm death outcomes. That is a relevant data point in terms of firearm deaths. This bill is not a criticism of CCSD police because I used their practices to codify it. This comes down to an education component and a component of accountability by parents. If we pass these laws such as in S.B. 294, we have a due diligence to make sure parents understand them.

Obviously, a child bringing a gun to school is the result of a failure in firearms storage for whatever reason or parents are not being held to account. What that looks like in the future is up for debate. However, the reality is we have an obligation—especially since this is a prevalent issue—to communicate to parents, “This is the law.”

We can disagree on the law, but students are still bringing guns to school. Let us all get on the same page by making sure it is codified. We must continue to collaborate so we do not have systems or situations in which entities or law enforcement agencies step all over each other.

If school shootings are encountered, we should know how to respond to them. If a shooting happens across from the school but not on the actual premises, we should know how to respond to it. We should know the role of everyone, regardless of what school it is.

I specifically used CCSD policies to write S.B. 294 because some of its practices could be enacted Statewide. If you have school officers in your jurisdiction, especially in rural counties, but do not have the capacity to pursue the training programs, you can collaborate with other folks. There is nothing wrong with making sure people are trained and prepared; that is the important aspect.

SENATOR HANSEN:

We are on the same page. Nobody wants to see school shootings. The Sparks middle school I attended had a terrible shooting about seven or eight years ago. I am well aware of the problem.

As we try to develop solutions, other issues sometimes come into play. The firearms storage portion of the 2019 Nevada Safe Storage Act bill was amended significantly. Two-thirds of firearm owners say it is for self-defense purposes. After 2019, we saw a spike in Black females buying firearms for self defense. They stored them loaded close to their bed nightstand or wherever for immediate access. They would have been the people disproportionately charged for unsafe storage under A.B. No. 291 of the 80th Session.

These women often live in neighborhoods which are frankly scary. While the police respond when they can, the time is often beyond their ability to prevent a crime. These Black women in particular were buying handguns for self defense and could not store them as dictated by A.B. No. 291 of the 80th Session simply because they needed them available to deter violence against themselves and their families. We do not want them to be punished for that. That was why the storage portion of the 2019 bill was amended out.

These are some interesting dynamics because we do not want to see a disproportionate number of women and minorities being punished for living in areas where the police response cannot be fast enough to make them feel safe in their homes.

I live in a neighborhood where I do not lock my doors at night since there is no danger in my neighborhood. My house has a lot of firearms, but I do not have that sense of need to immediately access them like somebody in an inner-city area where crime is extremely high or there is gang activity.

We are on the same page in trying to solve the problem. However, when we consider how to get there, we must be careful. We do not in some cases want to penalize people with legitimate self-defense needs when it comes to firearms usage.

CHAIR SCHEIBLE:

I want to start by following up on Senator Hansen's questions about safe storage. I want to clarify the amendment would retain the language passed in 2019 regarding safe storage. Does it change it at all?

SENATOR DOÑATE:

That is correct. The bill imposes an additional requirement that firearms dealers provide information to purchasers about the new storage laws.

CHAIR SCHEIBLE:

That comports with our general philosophy you cannot punish people for something they do not know they are supposed to be doing. I do not want to say it is a companion piece to the Nevada Safe Storage Act provisions. Senate Bill 294 follows up by providing anybody who would be subject to the new laws has to be informed about them. Is that the idea in section 4 of the bill?

SENATOR DOÑATE:

Yes, it is important for parents to understand the provisions we passed into law in 2019. We are still seeing firearms encounters so must do better as a community to inform parents.

CHAIR SCHEIBLE:

Section 3 of S.B. 294 says we are keeping the safe storage laws and sections 4 and 10 mandate the informational factor for parents and gun purchasers. Section 8 of the bill provides for active shooter training for law enforcement. Is that just in school settings or elsewhere?

SENATOR DOÑATE:

Section 8 covers all school districts with law enforcement officers operating under their jurisdictions. If schools have officers, they must do active assailant technique training; most of the time, that is already part of their regular training. If a district does not have officers with the training, it would be required to collaborate with other law enforcement to prepare for shooter situations.

For the populous counties, school district officials must ask how the collaboration works with law enforcement and other public safety organizations, school administration and appropriate staff.

CHAIR SCHEIBLE:

What kind of conversations have you had with those agencies about whether they are ready and able to implement these policies? You mentioned some of them are already doing so.

SENATOR DOÑATE:

The policy Ms. Bivins and I wrote used guidelines CCSD police have already worked through. They have active assailant technique training ready to coordinate with other law enforcers. The bill takes that a step further by making sure administrators and appropriate staff are aware of applications for their schools. Codifying the training ensures we can continue to make revisions in the long term. The hope is it becomes part of standard practices for our emergency preparedness.

CHAIR SCHEIBLE:

Will this help ensure consistency across time as school administrators, school boards and police chiefs change? Is the goal to have more consistency in implementing emergency and active shooter preparedness on campuses throughout Nevada?

SENATOR DOÑATE:

Absolutely. The most important thing is we start looking at how we can connect with the community more, based on concerns they have shared publicly on social media and in general after firearms encounters. We are also looking at how we treat our faculty, staff and students when encounters occur. My goal is to continually revise policy based on community needs.

ANNETTE MAGNUS (Executive Director, Battle Born Progress):

You have my testimony ([Exhibit K](#)) in support of S.B. 294.

Battle Born Progress commends Senator Doñate for approaching gun violence through a public health lens and prioritizing community safety. Senate Bill 294 seeks to make schools safer and protect young people, educators and support staff after we have seen numerous school shootings and the presence of guns in our schools, specifically in Clark County, over the last year.



We must look at every possible solution to stop this violence. With the proposed amendment, [Exhibit I](#), we are confident the intent is to protect our kids and schools.

KEENAN KORTH (Clark County Education Association):

The Clark County Education Association is the exclusive bargaining unit for the 18,000 licensed employees of CCSD. The Association supports S.B. 294. The Safe Firearm Storage Act is a necessary intervention to meet the moment. It is alarming gun safety has become a major concern for educators whose primary responsibility should be simply educating our children. In a survey of 6,000 CCSD educators, 20 percent indicated feeling safe in their workplace is a top priority after a significant increase in the number of firearms recovered on CCSD campuses this year. Compared to even last year, this feeling of being at risk is more than warranted. Simply put, the status quo amounts to a mass shooting in the making.

Safe storage of firearms is critical to preventing the unspeakable from happening in our schools. Three-quarters of school shooters acquired their firearms from the home of a parent or close relative. An estimated 54 percent of gun owners do not safely store their guns. Research has shown locking up firearms and ammunition was associated with a 78 percent lower risk of self-inflicted firearm injuries in general and an 85 percent lower risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens. With school shootings dominating the headlines, lawmakers must act now before it is too late.

JOHN T. JONES, JR. (Nevada District Attorneys Association):

The Nevada District Attorneys Association supports S.B. 294. Tragically in the last few years, ten children have died in Clark County in situations we can directly trace back to improperly stored firearms. Many other children have been injured for the same reason. Failing to properly store a firearm can lead to fatal and life-altering consequences for children. Firearms obtained by these children were in unlocked nightstands, shoes, vehicles, glove boxes or otherwise left out in the open.

Children end up dead when firearms are not stored properly. Yet, time after time in case after case, we see firearms left readily accessible to children. How many times have we heard in this Committee that children's brains are not fully developed until they are in their 20s, that they are impulsive and not the best decision-makers? We have seen cases in which children who have been

supervised around firearms their entire lives and taught firearms safety make poor decisions when they access a firearm unsupervised or in a distressed emotional situation.

Tragically, a majority of the cases I described were children suffering from mental health conditions or suicidal ideations. A properly stored firearm could have prevented those deaths. We also have cases in which—luckily—no one was injured. We had a parent put a firearm in her child's backpack, forget about having done so and then send the child to school. Luckily, no one was injured.

We cannot rely on luck when our children are concerned. Providing locking devices and education about safe firearm storage will help. Section 10 of S.B. 294 will help ensure Nevada parents are educated about unsafe firearms storage by authorizing expenditures for an educational campaign.

SENATOR HANSEN:

You mentioned ten child firearm deaths. Senator Doñate talked about 36 deaths, 56 percent of which were homicides. Of your ten deaths, did you include suicides, accidents and homicides?

MR. JONES:

I was describing situations that generally occurred in the home which we can directly tie to an unsafe storage situation. We are not talking about incidents that occurred outside the home.

SENATOR HANSEN:

If you include all deaths, were there 36 deaths of youth in Clark County?

MR. JONES:

Senator, I do not have those statistics.

SENATOR HANSEN:

In a list given to the Committee by Clark County, 144 knives were brought to schools. Were any child deaths attributed to knives in Clark County?

MR. JONES:

I do not have those statistics either. I looked specifically at firearm deaths in preparation for this hearing.

SENATOR HANSEN:

I would love to know that because now we have 26 handguns and 144 knives at schools. Knives are used frequently in homicides, so why are we singling out one while ignoring the other? I would like to see the totals on juvenile deaths by homicide, suicides and accidents in Clark County.

MR. JONES:

I will look specifically for child deaths related to knives, homicides, suicides and accidents for you.

VANESSA DUNN (Nevada Public Health Association):

The Nevada Public Health Association strongly supports S.B. 294.

SUSAN PROFFITT:

I agree with some of S.B. 294, but there are things that still need tweaking. I am a gun owner, I own a large gun safe, and my daughter was a competitive shooter. The bill should provide all schools with armed guards and teachers trained to use guns as needed. Reconsider punishing parents who lose a child due to negligent firearms storage. That would be incredibly cruel. The death of a child is a life sentence; I lost my daughter two years ago, and I would not wish that on anyone.

Senate Bill 294 infringes on our constitutional rights. Enforcing our existing gun laws would be good place to start. The lock on a gun itself is troubling to use. My life would be in danger if I had to take the lock off in a hurry.

Educating parents about safe storage is a good idea. Providing them with free classes instead of charging them would be admirable. If parents cannot afford to buy storage mechanisms, we should find a source to get lower-cost devices for people who need them at a lower rate or for free.

As written, the bill is too punitive and intrusive into our lives. One size does not fit all gun owners; my government does not know what is best for my family.

LESLIE QUINN:

I echo Ms. Proffitt's objections to S.B. 294. I oppose it on First Amendment grounds. A well-regulated militia is necessary to the security of the State. The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed upon. Every Nevada resident and American citizen has the right to keep and bear arms.

Studies show gun locks do not reduce accidental child deaths and suicides. However, they do put law-abiding citizens at the risk of encountering criminals, nefarious people or those with mental issues who do not follow or care about laws or gun locks. They only care about carrying out whatever evil act they want without regard to others. This is evidenced by the recent killing referenced by Senator Doñate of three innocent nine-year-old children and three school staff in Tennessee.

Legislation is best directed at protecting the constitutional freedoms of law-abiding citizens. Please stop the endless barrage of legislation focused on destroying humanity, causing divisiveness and exacerbating mental health issues. We need to unite and support one another for what is good, ethical and right. As a constitutional republic, we are not a democracy.

CYRUS HOJJATY:

While some of the ideas and plans in S.B. 294 are reasonable, they will not fully solve the problem. If we are going to regulate guns, we should consider other factors causing violent outbreaks. These incidents accelerated during COVID-19 lockdowns and all the other so-called pandemic measures. We have an issue with drugs, including Big Pharma. A lack of good family structure increases the chance of having a firearms issue in schools with a disproportionate number of low-income students. We need to raise wages.

Many of these conflicts are a result of racial and ethnic factors. As seen all over the world and throughout history, differences in people often lead to conflicts. We should take all these factors into consideration, not just point the finger at firearms.

SENATOR DOÑATE:

The issues in S.B. 294 invoke an important conversation. One of my first statements made on the Senate Floor in the Eighty-first Session was about my personal experience with firearms in schools. Unlike any other, my generation has experienced the issue of gun violence. We are the generation who

encountered this issue as part of our daily lives as we aged and school shootings became more prevalent. We began to practice active shooter drills in our college, learning to hide beneath our desks and finding the right ways to barricade a door from an intruder. We wore orange in middle school to show solidarity with student shooting victims, not realizing the trauma and consequences that would follow us.

This is a tough conversation for many of us. The conceptual amendment, [Exhibit I](#), will get us closer to holding parents more accountable and educating voters of this community about the laws and what they entail. If there is a way to save just one more life, that clear policy decision can easily be made today. The bill is aimed at solving one thing: providing students and teachers with an environment free and safe from gun violence. We can do a better job to alleviate the burden of gun violence; let us start by passing this bill.

CHAIR SCHEIBLE:

We will close the hearing on [S.B. 294](#). Seeing no more business before the Senate Committee on Judiciary, this meeting is adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Pat Devereux,  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Senator Melanie Scheible, Chair

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>EXHIBIT SUMMARY</b>				
<b>Bill</b>	<b>Exhibit Letter</b>	<b>Introduced on Minute Report Page No.</b>	<b>Witness / Entity</b>	<b>Description</b>
	A	1		Agenda
	B	1		Attendance Roster
S.B. 36	C	2	Patrick Guinan	Work Session Document
S.B. 55	D	3	Patrick Guinan	Work Session Document
S.B. 62	E	3	Patrick Guinan	Work Session Document
S.B. 67	F	4	Patrick Guinan	Work Session Document
S.B. 234	G	5	Patrick Guinan	Work Session Document
S.B. 294	H	6	Senator Fabian Doñate	Presentation: "SB 294 Safe Storage and School Safety"
S.B. 294	I	9	Senator Fabian Doñate	Proposed Conceptual Amendment
S.B. 294	J	10	Samantha Bivins	Introductory Remarks
S.B. 294	K	16	Annette Magnus / Battle Born Progress	Support Testimony