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**Testimony re Assembly Bill 218
Provided by Dr. Darlene Schottle
Washoe County School District
07 March 2003**

Good afternoon. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, and staff—
My name is Darlene Schottle. I am an area superintendent In the Washoe County School District and speak to you this afternoon on behalf of the school district.

NRS 392 requires each principal—in collaboration with teachers and parents—to establish a progressive discipline plan. The Washoe County School District follows the mandate of that statute.

After the plan is crafted and agreed upon at the school site, those plans come to the area superintendents in our school district. If plans are not submitted when required, the appropriate area superintendent acts administratively to immediately communicate with the principal about this problem.

In my experience, there have been a handful of times when the plan was not submitted on time because the school team could not come to agreement about progressive consequences for students as a result of disruptive behavior. On occasion, the school team has wanted consequences which are not allowable or in line with the requirements of laws governing students with disabilities and 504 students. Eventually, however, resolution is achieved, sometimes as a result of facilitation from the area superintendent.

The Washoe County School District supports the new language of Section 1, subsections 2 and 3. We are already doing what is contained in those sections. We do not support the provisions of Section 1, subsection 4, on the second page of the bill.

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SUBMITTED BY: DARLENE SCHOTTLE

It is our view that such a practice as that proposed in subsection 4 is not necessary in the Washoe County School district. Moreover, at a time when school teams must work together as teams focused upon improving student achievement as mandated by No Child Left Behind, such a practice would generate division and dissension.

In Washoe County School District, as well as in other Nevada school districts, local procedures are in place to address such issues. Moreover, NRS 391 already provides a basis for evaluating or disciplining an administrator who fails to perform as expected or directed.

Subsection 4 of this bill seems excessively punitive and precludes other more fitting methods of dealing with a principal's failure to complete or implement such a plan.

Thank you for your attention this afternoon.