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Stanley A. Fuke, Library Coordinator  
Clark County School District  
Testimony before the Assembly Committee on Education on AB 345

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen of the Assembly Committee on Education, my name is Stanley Fuke, and I am the coordinator of Library Services for the Clark County School District representing 240 school librarians and 160 library aides.

I am speaking today on AB 345.

AB 345's concept and thoughts are both innovative and exciting in our quest to serve the needs of our students and the public. Our school libraries' primary intent is to meet the informational needs of all our students and the school community.

This concept is not new to school librarians. In the past we have used grant funds to encourage parents to utilize eight elementary libraries during the after school hours by opening our libraries for an extra hour. It was extremely successful in encouraging our parents to use our school libraries.

High school librarians are fully aware that millions of dollars of information stored in our libraries is not accessible before and after the school hours. We have discussed opening our libraries prior to and after school hours, but our primary concerns as expressed by over 30 high school librarians include:

- Security: School police are required for both inside and outside of the school grounds to ensure that our librarians, library aides, and patrons are safe. Many of our high schools such as Clark, Eldorado, Virgin Valley, and Indian Springs have libraries located within the school building.
- Liability: Additional liability exposure resulting from public use of libraries must be considered as part of the school risk management program.
- Materials: If materials are to serve the entire school community, funding for material purchases must be increased for additional materials for patrons including, elementary and middle school students, and adults.
- Additional Funds: Purchases for additional bookshelves and replacement costs of materials damaged or lost.
  - One of compelling issues we need to grapple with is when we grant public access to our high school libraries, the depletion of the resources would

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significantly impact the ability of our libraries to meet the educational needs of our students.

- Computer Equipment: As much of our information has been stored in databases, increased access to them with public usage would require additional computers to be added in our high school libraries.
- LVCC Public Library Patrons Cards: Our software is not configured to accept the public library's patrons' cards. Additional software must be purchased in order to accommodate this request. All of our systems must be able to communicate to the LVCC Public Library WAN to ensure that all borrowers would be accommodated.
- Salaries: All of our librarians and library aides must be compensated for their time in the library at their daily rate of pay including PERS.

While this is a wonderful concept in today's economic crisis, sharing of resources is very important, but because of the huge financial and liability impact, I feel it is not a feasible project at this time.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on AB 345.

Stanley A. Fuke, Coordinator  
Library Services  
Clark County School District  
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