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VALERIE WIENER

SENATOR

Clark No. 3

MINORITY WHIP

COMMITTEES:

Member

Human Resources and Facilities

Judiciary

Legislative Affairs and Operations



State of Nevada Senate

Seventy-second Session

Memorandum

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To: Chairman Koivisto and Members of the Assembly Committee on
Health and Human Services
From: Senator Valerie Wiener
Date: May 14, 2003
Subject: S.C.R 12

S..R.C. 12 encourages the promotion of proper nutrition and physical fitness in schools.

Attached are letters of support from the following people:

- Jack McLaughlin, Superintendent of Public Instruction
- Dori S. Pro, President, Nevada State Association of School Nurses
- Buffy Gail Martin, Government Relations Director-Nevada, American Cancer Society
- Lawrence Matheis, Executive Director, Nevada State Medical Association

I would appreciate your "yes" vote on S.C.R. 12.

Thanks so much.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Valerie Wiener", is written over a horizontal line.

ASSEMBLY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DATE: 05/14 ROOM: 3138 EXHIBIT E1-5

SUBMITTED BY: Senator Valerie Wiener

JACK W. McLAUGHLIN
Superintendent of Public Instruction

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April 15, 2003

The Honorable Ellen Koivisto, Chair
Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services
Nevada State Legislature
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Assemblywoman Koivisto:

The Nevada State Board of Education has reviewed and supports SCR 12. This is submitted on behalf of the Nevada State Board of Education.

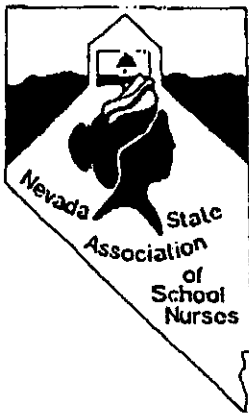
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack McLaughlin", written over the typed name and title.

Jack McLaughlin
Superintendent of Public Instruction

JM/da

Copy: Senator Valerie Wiener
Members, Assembly Committee on Health & Human Services



Nevada State Association of School Nurses

March 19, 2003

Re: Senate Concurrent Resolution -12

Senator Raymond Rawson, Chairman, and members of the Human Resources and Facilities Committee:

On behalf of the Nevada State Association of School Nurses, I am writing to show our unanimous support of SCR 12. I would first like to state how much school nurses appreciate the enthusiastic, unwavering commitment Senator Valerie Wiener shows for the health of our students, and am sure most if not all of you agree that the health of our students is paramount to the health of our future.

I am pleased that Senator Wiener had the forethought to ensure every school nurse in Nevada is provided with a copy of this resolution, as we are in the forefront of assessing the students in our schools, and are able to have a direct and positive impact on nutrition and fitness in the school setting. With early recognition, referrals, and treatment, many students can change their lifestyle habits by eating healthy foods and exercising and thus reducing not only the number of Type II Diabetic youth, but tooth decay as well.

We know that excessive caloric intake, in combination with a lack of physical activity, has contributed to the steady rise in both excess weight and Type II diabetes in American youth. I recently asked the Chief School Nurses in Nevada to provide me with the number of *known* students with Type II Diabetes in their schools. In Clark County alone, there are 47; in Washoe County, 23; and in all other counties, over 30. Many of the nurses responded with information about the increase in obesity, and all stated their numbers are probably higher. Many of these students will be diagnosed with Type II Diabetes before adulthood, or perhaps one of several other health problems such as coronary heart disease, high cholesterol, asthma, as well as psychosocial issues due to poor body image.

Children and teens are major consumers of carbonated drinks and high-calorie, low-nutrient foods. Unfortunately, schools often contribute to unhealthy nutrition by supplying vending machines with sodas and candy. However, schools can also play an important role in modeling healthful lifestyles by minimizing the accessibility of non-nutritious food while simultaneously promoting physical activity. Since children spend a large proportion of their day in the school setting, schools are a natural setting in which to promote healthy eating habits. School nurses are charged with the promotion of health and prevention of illness so that children and adolescents are ready and able to learn. In working along with others, we can make the necessary changes in the school setting to ensure the nutritious and physical activity needs of the students are met. In addition, we can work with our communities to promote healthy living and exercise.

I ask that you support SCR12, and provide the children in Nevada with a choice to live long, healthy, disease-free lives. Thank you for this opportunity to help our students.

Sincerely,

Dori S. Pro, President



April 23, 2003

To: Members of the Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services

Re: SCR 12

On behalf of the American Cancer Society and our 6,000 state wide volunteers, we ask for your support of SCR 12 to encourage nutrition and physical fitness in Nevada's schools.

Unhealthy eating habits and physical inactivity cause at least 300,000 preventable deaths each year from cancer, heart disease and diabetes. We are committed to improving the ability of all population groups to eat a healthy diet and be physically active because of proven health benefits and the corresponding reduction in cancer risk.

Instilling healthier lifestyles in our state's youth is vital. Overweight and obesity rates in children have doubled over the last two decades; 14% of children and 12% of teens are obese. This trend is especially troubling because overweight and obese children are at increased risk for becoming obese adults, which could further increase cancer rates. The rise in the number of overweight and obese children signals a need to target prevention initiatives toward youth before unhealthy habits are ingrained.

SCR 12 would help provide the changes required to promote healthier lifestyles among our youth, a major key to limiting cancer risk, as well as other diseases. Please join us in supporting healthier children and vote for SCR 12.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Buffy Gail Martin".

Buffy Gail Martin

Government Relations Director - Nevada

Nevada State Medical Association

ROBERT W. SHRECK, M.D., President
JOHN S. WILLIAMSON, M.D., President-Elect
MARJORIE L. UHALDE, Ph.D., M.D., Immed. Past President
RAUL T. MEOZ, M.D., Secretary
WAYNE C. HARDWICK, M.D., Treasurer
ROBERT W. SHRECK, M.D., AMA Delegate
MICHAEL J. FISCHER, M.D., AMA Delegate
RALPH J. COPPOLA, M.D., AMA Alternate Delegate
ROBERT LYNN HORNE, M.D., AMA Alternate Delegate
LAWRENCE P. MATHEIS, Executive Director

May 14, 2003

The Honorable Ellen Koivisto
Chair-Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services
Nevada Assembly
401 S. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701


Dear Assemblywoman Koivisto:

The Nevada State Medical Association (NSMA) supports SCR12, which the Committee has under consideration today.

There is a growing medical concern regarding the health of children. There have been significant recent studies of obesity related illnesses and of the adverse consequences for children of sedentary lifestyles and unhealthy behaviors. There have also been a growing number of examples of successful programs to offset these factors. S.C.R. 12 (Encourages school administrators, teachers and other educational personnel involved in prekindergarten through 12th grade to promote nutrition and physical fitness in schools.) raises these issues and proposes significant interventions. The NSMA supports the measure and is committed to assisting in its implementation.

I regret that an unavoidable conflict precluded my attendance at your hearing today.

Sincerely,


Lawrence P. Matheis
Executive Director