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Testimony prepared for March 20th, Assembly committee on Taxation

Good afternoon, my name is Sheila Moulton, and I am currently the Clark county School Board of Trustee President and this is who I represent this day.

Thank you for making this opportunity for us to testify as convenient as possible for Southern Nevada, and let me state I appreciate the work you do for our State and particularly our next generation of Nevadans.

Last year was the smallest % of growth CCSD had experienced in almost 12 years. The increase was less than 5% yet amounted to over 10,000 students.... With a simple 3% cost of living applied to costs the District we once again lost overall buying power to continue the many needs of our 255,000 students... please know this fall we will once again gain almost 12,000 students to our system. In order to accommodate increasing need for safety issues, technology, and socioeconomic challenges, English Language learners that need additional resources... we have found the need to cut some 97 million dollars in programs over the last 3. If the governor's budget is not funded these cuts could move to 200 + million. CCSD currently has one of the largest class sizes in grades 4-12 and kindergarten anywhere in the nation. We are well over \$1,000 below the national average.... And \$200 lowers than the Nevada State average. This would amount to an additional \$51,000,000.

Over the last 12 days CCSD held 4 town hall meetings inviting the public to assist us in where the District could make cuts that would least effect students. Please know that the overwhelming demand is that no cuts be made; but that the Tax Structure for the state be revised to increase taxes and make them stable so that economic factors will not have the effect. Let me share a few preliminary results. Note that the numbers are still be tallied but out 13,690 returned surveys the following have been tallied:

Cut education: strongly agree: 4.22%.....agree: 7.63%.....Disagree: 26.42%....stronglydisagree.....59.62% 85% don't want cuts!

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ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TAXATION
DATE: 3/20/03 ROOM: LV EXHIBIT
SUBMITTED BY: Sheila Moulton

2 pages

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Increase taxes to maintain current education programs...strongly agree
45.52%..agree.....31.67%....disagree.....11.8 %.....strongly disagree
7.4% 78% want to increase taxes to maintain education

Support Governor Guinns tax increase: Strongly Agree 52.9%.....Agree
28.2%.....so a total of 81% in support of the Governors Tax increases.

Please know that CCSD is not here to testify to any particular tax increase
only the taxes be increased to the level where educational needs can be met
for each and every student...that the tax structure will be stable and that
Districts can plan on continued resources.
May I suggest: what will diversify and strengthen our
Economy...Education...New business will follow an A+ education plan.

Thank you for your time and commitment to our students and staff...Are
their any questions?

I would like to introduce Denise Brodsky, Board Vice President and Trustee
MaryBeth Scow.