

## DISCLAIMER

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March 20, 2003

Dear Senator/Assemblyperson,

I moved to Las Vegas in 1972 and am a product of the Clark County School District. When I graduated from high school over twenty years ago, I decided to move to California to become a teacher. I returned about nine years later because of education budget cuts in California. I have now taught in Clark County for eleven years. The reason I feel all of this is important is because I have seen this city grow and change, and I have seen education in Clark County change and grow. I am saddened by the cuts Clark County School District has to make every year. The number of

children requiring an education has increased dramatically, yet the state's per pupil expenditure is one of the lowest in this county. How does this state expect to have quality education when it won't put the money that is needed into education? One of our school board members spoke at a recent Town Hall meeting and quoted a state lobbyist. She said that education is the best deal in town. The costs go up each year, yet the funding doesn't. We are doing more for less. Why is that? How does this state ever expect quality education when it won't properly contribute the dollars necessary to support the growth that the school districts are experiencing and compensate its teachers adequately? The problem is that most teachers will continue to work in over-crowded classrooms, with more disruptive students, and less supplies because we believe in the importance of education. We will even support more taxes (which for us will actually amount to a pay cut) if that will help the future our students.

I am truly amazed how residents of Las Vegas think they pay too much in taxes. All I can say is try living elsewhere. It's time for the legislature and all Nevadans to think about the future of our children and our state. We are in a crisis situation and budget cuts aren't the solution. It is all of our responsibilities- even those without children- to support Nevada's future. The time is now to implement a long range plan to fund quality schools.

I hope you will do the right thing!

Sincerely,

*Jana Pleggenkuhle*

Jana Pleggenkuhle

Las Vegas, NV 89121

(copy of e-mail sent to legislature)

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TAXATION

DATE: 3/20/03 ROOM: LV EXHIBIT

SUBMITTED BY: Jana Pleggenkuhle

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