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**Las Vegas**  
**Chamber of Commerce**  
The Voice of Business

April 10, 2003

Chairman William Raggio  
Senate Finance Committee  
Nevada Legislature  
Carson City, NV

Dear Chairman Raggio:

The Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce supports SB 376, creating a voucher system.

The Chamber of Commerce believes Nevada's children must have access to quality education in order to ensure their success in a globally competitive economic market. Giving children the educational building blocks of strong reading, writing, mathematics, science and critical thinking skills will allow our youth to compete for high skilled, high paying jobs in the future.

All parents want to give their children the best education they can afford and many parents choose to send their children to private school to improve their education. However, as a matter of economics many lower-income families cannot afford to send their child to private school, especially in larger families. These children do not have the option of leaving a failing public school for a more successful private one. It is fundamentally unfair that lower-income families are locked into the public school system exclusively for economic reasons.

This bill would add an element of parity to the educational system by allowing lower income students to have the same access as the children of higher income Nevadans.

Additionally, allowing vouchers will promote competition between schools and create a more efficient system. This will create a major incentive to improve education for all children not simply those who have vouchers.

Respectfully,



Christina Dugan  
Director of Government Affairs

Cc: Senator Washington

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Wells Fargo Bank  
**Lou Emmert**  
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