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**Testimony re SB 31—February 10, 2003**

**Senate Human Resources and Facilities**

Washoe County School District

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Gifted and talented students in the Washoe County School District currently have several options open to them for pursuing college or university classes while still enrolled in the school district.

The first option for gifted and talented students is to take an Advanced Placement course offered at their home high schools. The Washoe County School District has an extensive range of Advanced Placement courses available at all of our high schools. In fact, during the 2001-2002 school year, the most recent year for which complete data are available, 21 different courses are offered in our district. For that same year, 2,151 students participated in Advanced Placement courses. WCSD is one of the nation's largest school districts to mandate that students enrolled in AP courses must take the exams for those courses. Typically, students who earn a 4 or 5 on the AP exam may either earn college credit or waive course requirements based upon those AP exam scores.

The second option for gifted and talented students is to attend the TMCC Magnet High School, an alternative for students who are in eleventh and twelfth grades and who want to attend both high school and community college classes. For students enrolled in that program, the school district pays the costs of tuition.

A third option is for students, not just gifted and talented students, to participate in the dual credit opportunities which already exist for them.

Although the language of this proposal is permissive, it is our position that we already have programs in place to challenge gifted and talented students, providing them with appropriate academic rigor and course content to benefit them. The three options mentioned here provide opportunities for all students, not just gifted and talented students.

Enactment of this proposal would constitute an unfunded mandate for the Washoe County School District because it would be the district responsibility to pay for registration fees, lab fees, and other related expenses. It is our position that three options already exist for students in our school district, and these options benefit numerous students already.