

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 38—Senators Titus, Amodei, Beers, Care, Carlton, Cegavske, Coffin, Hardy, Heck, Horsford, Lee, Mathews, McGinness, Nolan, Raggio, Rhoads, Schneider, Tiffany, Townsend, Washington and Wiener

Joint Sponsors: Assemblymen Parks, Allen, Anderson, Angle, Arberry Jr., Atkinson, Buckley, Carpenter, Christensen, Claborn, Conklin, Denis, Gansert, Gerhardt, Giunchigliani, Goicoechea, Grady, Hardy, Hettrick, Hogan, Holcomb, Horne, Kirkpatrick, Koivisto, Leslie, Mabey, Manendo, Marvel, McClain, McCleary, Mortenson, Munford, Ocegüera, Ohrenschall, Parnell, Perkins, Pierce, Seale, Sherer, Sibley, Smith and Weber

FILE NUMBER.....

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Expressing support for international education and foreign exchange student programs.

WHEREAS, International education is a crucial component of higher education in Nevada which contributes to the economy of the State and to a diverse college environment, and enhances both academic and cocurricular programs; and

WHEREAS, Because tourism and foreign trade are key sectors projected to improve Nevada's economic future in the next decade, it is critical that this State promote mutual understanding between Nevadans and citizens of other countries through international education programs at its colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, The foundation of international education is the exchange of students and scholars from other countries, and proof that Nevada is committed to encouraging students from other countries to study in this State is evidenced by the fact that in the 2002-2003 academic year Nevada ranked third among the "Mountain States" region, consisting of Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, in numbers of international students, with 2,702 such students enrolled in its colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, Because, as the fastest growing State in the nation, Nevada draws many new immigrants who bring with them their diverse talents and perspectives, Nevada's institutions of higher learning must provide the necessary skills, knowledge and training for them to be successful citizens, as well as provide all students with the opportunity to acquire the intercultural skills to interact effectively within a multicultural context; and

WHEREAS, International education includes curricular offerings that teach foreign languages, address global issues and provide in-

depth understanding of other cultures, utilizes citizens of other countries in formal and informal settings as teaching resources, and recognizes that the development of new knowledge, the best research and technological breakthroughs require international collaboration; and

WHEREAS, With today's increasingly complex international trade relations, concern for the preservation of our global ecology and the constant goal of world peace, the promotion and support of international education becomes increasingly important to our national security, foreign policy, economic competitiveness and capacity for tolerance; and

WHEREAS, Former President Clinton issued an Executive Memorandum on International Education on April 19, 2000, in which he called upon educational institutions, state and local governments, nongovernmental organizations and the business community to contribute to a coherent and coordinated international education strategy that "will help us meet the twin challenges of preparing our citizens for a global environment while continuing to attract and educate future leaders from abroad"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the Nevada Legislature hereby recognizes that the international students and scholars of this State contribute significantly to the cultural diversity of Nevada's educational institutions and, through their representation, they enhance the educational experience of all students while making important contributions, and thereby supports the participation of Nevada's students, teachers, administrators and educational policymakers in international studies, international exchange programs and other activities that advance cultural awareness and promote mutual understanding and respect for the citizens of other countries; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Nevada's colleges and universities are encouraged to:

1. Develop courses of study in as many fields as possible to increase students' understanding of global issues and cultural differences;
2. Further develop courses in foreign languages to prepare students to seek careers in a global marketplace and enhance their understanding of other nations' values;
3. Provide opportunities for students in all majors to participate in programs to study abroad to enrich their academic training, intercultural perspectives and personal development;
4. Provide opportunities for domestic and international students to interact effectively and routinely to share their views, perceptions and experiences; and

5. Develop innovative public educational forums and venues to explore global issues and showcase world cultures; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the importance of international education and foreign exchange student programs can be summed up in a statement made by former Secretary of State Colin Powell on November 11, 2003, in commemoration of International Education Week, sponsored by the United States Department of State and Department of Education to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide: "International education, learning about other cultures and languages through study, living overseas, and interacting with people of other countries, promotes the free exchange of ideas, allows us to seek joint solutions to problems, and helps create lasting partnerships to meet our shared concerns"; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and transmit a copy of this resolution to the Chancellor of the University and Community College System and each member of the Board of Regents.

