

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES AND EDUCATION**

**Seventy-fourth Session
March 23, 2007**

The Senate Committee on Human Resources and Education was called to order by Chair Maurice E. Washington at 10:51 a.m. on Friday, March 23, 2007, in Room 2135 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, Room 4412E, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. [Exhibit A](#) is the Agenda. [Exhibit B](#) is the Attendance Roster. All exhibits are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Maurice E. Washington, Chair
Senator Barbara K. Cegavske, Vice Chair
Senator Joseph J. Heck
Senator Valerie Wiener
Senator Steven A. Horsford

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Senator Dennis Nolan (Excused)
Senator Joyce Woodhouse (Excused)

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Senator Dina Titus, Clark County Senatorial District No. 7

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marsheilah D. Lyons, Committee Policy Analyst
Joe McCoy, Committee Policy Analyst
Sara Partida, Committee Counsel
Patricia Vardakis, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mary Ellen Britt, R.N., Regional Trauma Coordinator, Southern Nevada Health District

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Michael H. Metzler, M.D., Trauma Services, Sunrise Hospital; Regional Trauma
Advisory Board
Dan Musgrove, University Medical Center of Southern Nevada
Graham Galloway, Nevada Trial Lawyers Association
Elizabeth MacMenamin, Retail Association of Nevada
Samuel P. McMullen, Retail Association of Nevada
Conrad Hafen, Chief Deputy Attorney General, Criminal Justice Division, Office
of the Attorney General
Mark A. Snyder, Resident Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration,
United States Department of Justice
R. Ben Graham, Clark County District Attorney; Nevada District Attorneys
Association
Frank Adams, Executive Director, Nevada Sheriffs' and Chiefs' Association
Richard E. Steinberg, President, WestCare Foundation, Incorporated
Robert Schmidt, Director, Theodore Roosevelt Institute
Norman L. Dianda, Q & D Construction, Incorporated
Joseph Enge, Education Policy Analyst, Nevada Policy Research Institute

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

We will open the hearing on Senate Bill (S.B.) 112.

SENATE BILL 112: Enacts provisions governing the sale of products containing materials that are used in the manufacture of methamphetamine and other controlled substances. (BDR 40-27)

SENATOR DINA TITUS (Clark County Senatorial District No. 7):

I will read from my written testimony ([Exhibit C](#)) concerning the problem of methamphetamine use in Nevada. The Retail Association of Nevada has amendments they are proposing and I have no objection to their proposals.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

We will open the hearing on S.B. 228.

SENATE BILL 228: Enacts provisions related to certain medical review committees. (BDR 40-986)

SENATOR HECK (Clark County Senatorial District No. 5):

I am a contract consultant to the Southern Nevada Health District, which is affected by this bill. I receive no monetary benefit or have no pecuniary interest

in the outcome of this bill and have been advised that I will be able to vote on this bill. A written disclosure will be filed with the Legislative Counsel Bureau. Last Session, S.B. No. 119 of the 73rd Session was passed by the Senate Committee on Judiciary, which protected from discovery under provisions of *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 49.117 a medical review committee of a county or district board of health that certifies license or regulates providers of emergency medical services pursuant to the provisions of chapter 450B of the NRS, but only when functioning as a peer review committee.

The reason for the proposed expansion then was the changing health care environment in Clark County with the addition of more trauma centers and the development of a regional trauma system.

Since that time, the Southern Nevada Health District's Office of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma System has moved forward with regulations and processes for conducting these medical peer review meetings by organizing a Trauma Medical Audit Committee. This committee is multidisciplinary and reviews selected trauma cases in order to identify best practices so that the system participants can learn from each other.

In reviewing the records of trauma fatalities, it is critically important to have autopsy records available. The committee cannot adequately address the care provided unless it has knowledge of the cause of death. The Clark County Coroner's Office has been reluctant to provide these records because it is their legal counsel's opinion that the Coroner's Office does not explicitly fall under the membership of the committee. To address this concern, S.B. 228 borrows established language from NRS 432B.407 relating to the Child Death Review Teams to clearly state that the Medical Peer Review Committee is entitled to access any autopsy records relating to the death under review and any medical records of a patient or decedent under review.

This is the intent of S.B. 228 so the County Coroner will allow us access to those records without fear of those records becoming discoverable.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

Was it an oversight that the Coroner's Office was left out?

SENATOR HECK:

It was not an oversight. Historically, peer review process was done in hospitals. The autopsy records are available within the hospital. This conflict did not arise until we started to do medical peer reviews outside of the hospital setting. It came to my attention that when the Child Death Review Teams were formed they had the same problem and they put this language in their chapter so the autopsy records would be available to them.

MARY ELLEN BRITT, R.N. (Regional Trauma Coordinator, Southern Nevada Health District):

I will read from my prepared written testimony ([Exhibit D](#)) in support of S.B. 228.

MICHAEL H. METZLER, M.D. (Trauma Services, Sunrise Hospital; Regional Trauma Advisory Board):

I am a Trauma Director at Sunrise Hospital and would like to comment in support of S.B. 228 ([Exhibit E](#)).

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

Would the application of S.B. 228 be applicable to the Washoe County District Health Department or just Clark County?

Senator Heck:

It would be applicable to Clark County because it is the only health district that has responsibility for trauma plan development.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

Is the language on lines 1 through 5, on page 2 of S.B. 228, the information collected by the Medical Peer Review Committee?

SENATOR HECK:

Yes. The Trauma Medical Audit Committee goes into closed session when it conducts peer review. This is the portion of the proceedings that is protected. The rest of the proceedings are open. The language on page 2, lines 1 through 10 are redundant because it is already spelled out in chapter 49 of the NRS. This language does not expand on the language in chapter 49 of the NRS.

DAN MUSGROVE (University Medical Center of Southern Nevada):

I wish to echo the preceding testimonies. The University Medical Center of Southern Nevada is the number one trauma center and wants to make sure the trauma center works at its best. This would be another tool to ensure that we are providing the best care for our citizens.

SENATOR WIENER:

My question concerns the language on lines 1 through 10, on page 2 of S.B. 228. If the information is attained independently, can it be used in the ways designated by the language?

SARA PARTIDA (Committee Counsel):

It is my understanding that it can be acquired from the original source, but cannot be acquired from the Medical Peer Review Committee.

GRAHAM GALLOWAY (Nevada Trial Lawyers Association):

The purpose of this bill is to allow the Medical Peer Review Committees to obtain the autopsy reports and our organization feels that is an appropriate goal. Our organization has difficulty with governmental entities meeting in private, behind closed doors, in secret and preventing the public access to information. We are opposed to that component of S.B. 228. It is redundant in this bill.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

We will close the hearing on S.B. 228 and reopen the hearing on S.B. 112.

ELIZABETH MACMENAMIN (Retail Association of Nevada):

We have reviewed S.B. 112 and agree this is a situation that must be addressed. Our chain drugstores are currently under requirements by the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005 to comply with federal mandates. We support the bill in concept, but are proposing amendments pertaining to our concerns.

Federal law does not provide a penalty for violating some of the acts that are in this bill. It does create a training program such as the We Card program with tobacco. We recognize there should be penalties for those who are breaking the law. Our members are already subject to federal penalties which include the revocation of their licensing to dispense.

The Legislature has previously determined if a business is proactive in training and educating and proves it has consistently implemented the program with its employees, then the business will not be held responsible, but the employee who did not comply with the training would be responsible. We have discussed our amendments with Senator Titus. I have submitted a letter ([Exhibit F](#)) outlining the sections we have amended and what the changes would do.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

Would the charge be a misdemeanor for a first offense?

MS. MACMENAMIN:

I have our legal counsel investigating this matter. The first offense would be a gross misdemeanor according to S.B. 112. In Nevada, a second offense would be a civil penalty and a Category D felony.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

I am not clear as to the meaning of the language on lines 13 through 28 on page 4 of S.B. 112. The language on line 23 on page 4 refers to a misdemeanor. Where did you derive gross misdemeanor?

MS. MACMENAMIN:

The interpretation resulted from research by our legal counsel based on the national level. Within federal law, the person purchasing the product is held for heavy penalties. Within the retail sector, their penalty is to have their license revoked based on federal law.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

Who is subject to the \$25,000 fine?

MS. MACMENAMIN:

Our interpretation is it would be the retailer. It is one of our concerns because the penalty is strong and goes beyond the federal mandate and the Combat Methamphetamine Act.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

Section 8, lines 19 through 26 requires the retailer to maintain a logbook. If the retailer fails to maintain a logbook and provide access, then the retailer is in violation of a misdemeanor. Is this correct?

MS. MACMENAMIN:

Yes. In section 8, we have amended the language to bring it in compliance with federal law. Presently, we are mandated to provide a logbook. If we do not comply with the federal law, it would mean revocation of our license.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

Your amendments are to comply with the federal statutes then there would be no additional requirements on the retailer.

MS. MACMENAMIN:

You are correct.

SENATOR WIENER:

Are the 24-hour period and the 24-hour calendar day retail terms?

MS. MACMENAMIN:

Yes. The 24-hour calendar day was a more reasonable terminology to determine what was necessary for purchasing the product.

SENATOR WIENER:

Would it still be an hour to an hour on the next day?

MS. MACMENAMIN:

I am not sure. Our legal counsels said that because of the way the retail sector is set up and processes their transactions, the 24-hour calendar period would be the proper terminology.

SENATOR WIENER:

Could it be less than 24 hours? Would 4 p.m. to 8 a.m. be a calendar day? The time frame could be reduced if the store's closing time is 11 p.m. on one day and the store opened at 8 a.m. the next day.

MS. MACMENAMIN:

It could. Some of our members have the ability to keep persons from purchasing products not only within the 24 hours but from city to city within the United States.

SENATOR WIENER:

In the bill there are specific amounts of ingredients on page 3, lines 7 through 12, but on page 5, lines 9 through 12 of your amendment, [Exhibit F](#), the language used is "base product of." Is this language proposed for future additions to the list of base products?

MS. MACMENAMIN:

Yes. It tightens the language and opens the way for future materials.

SENATOR HECK:

Has there been thought or discussion concerning those materials that may contain some of the precursors which cannot be used to make methamphetamine? Products such as pseudoephedrine that is in liquid form or gel caps and products that cannot be converted to methamphetamine, could these products be sold over the counter?

MS. MACMENAMIN:

The products that do not contain these ingredients are still sold over the counter.

SENATOR HECK:

There are reformulations that do not contain the pseudoephedrine, but there are drugs that contain pseudoephedrine that technically cannot be used to make methamphetamine. Is there a provision to let those drugs remain on the shelf for the convenience of the consumer?

MS. MACMENAMIN:

I do not know the answer, but will get you the information.

SAMUEL P. McMULLEN (Retail Association of Nevada):

Part of the question goes to the logbook requirement. We do not want to catch incipient amounts or amounts that cannot be used as precursors because of their other combinations. We need to clarify whether federal law allows those amounts and whether we are drafting the language correctly.

The salts of optical isomers of these chemicals could include some of those reformulations. I would like to know whether Sudafed PE or similar drugs could be captured by this law under the broad language.

CONRAD HAFEN (Chief Deputy Attorney General, Criminal Justice Division, Office of the Attorney General)

I have a letter ([Exhibit G](#)) in support of S.B. 112 from the Attorney General and have supplied a copy to the Chair. There is one change to the letter in regard to the reference to the judiciary committee; the Attorney General appeared before the Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

The letter will be made part of the record.

MARK A. SNYDER (Resident Agent in Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration, United States Department of Justice)

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and our law enforcement partners in the State are committed to combating the trafficking and abuse of methamphetamine. Along with treatment and prevention, the DEA and our counterparts such as the Attorney General's Office and the Department of Public Safety are working to develop meaningful law enforcement strategies to address this problem. This includes identifying drug-trafficking organizations and drug-related assets and to operate meaningful programs to aid, identifying the criminal threat in the State.

A significant part of the DEA enforcement program is to combat methamphetamine abuse and trafficking in precursor control. If addressed on a local, national and international level, precursor control is a vital part of combating the methamphetamine problem and reducing domestic production. The most recent effort on the federal legislative side is the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005, which highlights include: the placing of pseudoephedrine-based products behind the counter, the maintenance of logbooks, the provision of civil and criminal penalties for individuals violating the statute and civil penalties for businesses not in compliance. It also provides law enforcement tools to target kingpins who are running criminal organizations and increases penalties for persons manufacturing methamphetamine in the presence of children.

Internationally, the DEA is working with our foreign counterparts enacting precursor control in their countries to reduce the diversion of pseudoephedrine-based products and other methamphetamine-related chemicals. A recent example of that success happened last week when Mexican authorities with the assistance of the DEA seized \$105 million in drug-related

proceeds. This was directly related to a company importing pseudoephedrine into Mexico from India and China.

MR. SNYDER:

The DEA is working with our counterparts in India, China and Germany to help reduce the importation of pseudoephedrine and reduce discrepancies between imported amounts and "end use statements." Nationally and locally, precursor control has played a major part in reducing methamphetamine production. The seizures of small, toxic labs and super labs are down in most parts of the country due to the efforts of law enforcement and partnerships.

The DEA's National Clandestine Laboratory Register allows individuals and groups, over the Internet, to identify locations if a specific location has been suspected as a methamphetamine lab to be seized to help reduce the environmental concerns associated with methamphetamine labs.

The DEA supports state precursor control. It gives the tools to our state and local law enforcement counterparts and allows policy makers to adopt legislation to meet the specific needs that are identified for the area. Legislation has been enacted in several states such as Oklahoma, Tennessee and Oregon. These states' legislations have helped see a dramatic reduction in clandestine seizures. Success is due in part to concentrated efforts of law enforcement, treatment and prevention providers to undertake region-wide efforts and coalitions to combat methamphetamine problems.

In Washoe County, we have a successful community methamphetamine response alliance; and in Carson City, we have had success in all three areas: enforcement, prevention and treatment. One area of concern involved in precursor controls is the ability of individuals to buy from multiple locations. In law enforcement, this term is known as "smurfing" and the practice involves an individual or group of individuals traveling to various locations to buy legal-limit quantities of pseudoephedrine. In accordance with federal statutes, retailers are required to maintain a logbook. Locally, law enforcement is using the logbooks to help identify those that are not only violating the federal statutes, but may be involved in methamphetamine trafficking.

The use of the electronic sales data in other states has been beneficial to reduce the amount of time taken by law enforcement and those affected, and to review those who may be in violation of federal or state statutes. There are several

options to the electronic databases. The State Board of Pharmacy has indicated they have the capability to keep such records, and there are third-party individuals such as the "Southwest Border HIDTA Arizona Strategy" which has introduced software that is able to track pseudoephedrine sales to alleviate the "smurfing" of tablets and to provide law enforcement tools.

It is our hope that the production of methamphetamine continues to decrease; however, with recent changes in Mexico and their enforcement efforts, the DEA is receiving information that the manufacturing situation in Mexico may be tenuous. We have seen a decrease in the purity of methamphetamine and the increase of street-level pricing. Our concern is that at some point the trafficking organizations may look at the risks involved in manufacturing methamphetamine in Mexico and transporting the substance across the border and determine the risks of producing the drugs domestically would outweigh the problem they are experiencing in Mexico. We encourage states to look at the precursor control and the role it may play in combating the methamphetamine problem.

The DEA's position is that precursor control is good. It has been successful and state governments and lawmakers are able to look at precursor control and the federal legislation as a guideline. If the State Legislators can tailor the federal legislation to meet the needs of Nevada, it would be helpful in supporting the DEA and our other law enforcement partners in combating the methamphetamine problem.

R. BEN GRAHAM (Clark County District Attorney; Nevada District Attorneys Association):

The Nevada District Attorneys Association offers support and assistance of the prosecutors that are in the courtroom dealing with the prosecution of these issues. We are working with all the parties involved to make sure effective legislation is drafted to help those who are dealing with this problem. We believe S.B. 112 is a move in the right direction.

FRANK ADAMS (Executive Director, Nevada Sheriffs' and Chiefs' Association):

This bill will give us the authority to act. When they close the borders and the big laboratories in Mexico are stopped, we will see the "mom and pop" laboratories again. We went from hundreds of laboratories to tens of laboratories in the last few years. The need and want will still be present so S.B. 112 will help us control that problem. The Nevada Sheriffs' and Chiefs' Association supports S.B. 112.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

We want legislation that will be beneficial to law enforcement, prevention and treatment of this problem. There is also the collateral damage dealing with families and children because of methamphetamine use.

RICHARD E. STEINBERG (President, WestCare Foundation):

I was on the Governor's Methamphetamine Working Group. The task force supports S.B. 112.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

We will close the hearing on S.B. 112. We now will have a PowerPoint presentation of "Teaching Nevada's Forgotten Half" ([Exhibit H](#), original is on file in the Research Library).

ROBERT SCHMIDT (Director, Theodore Roosevelt Institute):

There have been an enormous amount of educational reforms in this country. This presentation will look at the changing marketplace for labor. It will examine what other states are doing and what Nevada must do.

Education is one of the few subjects that everyone involved is an expert or they have children or grandchildren in the system or they are teachers and educators. Most of the major reform movements started within the 1980 to 2000 time period. These included changes in the core curriculum, focus on college entry, expanding social scope and attempts to create greater scholastic offerings. What happened in college curriculums over the last 25 years was a focus on college preparation. In the last 20 years, there has been an abdication of vocational education. We separate college education and vocational education. There was a notion during the period from 1950 through 1980 that we needed to do this transition. There were those students who needed to be prepared for college and those students who needed to be prepared for work. The students who needed to be prepared for college focused on reading, science and mathematics and everybody added diversity and inclusion.

The graphs on pages 3 and 4, [Exhibit H](#), show that by adding these core subjects in the curriculum there was no significant change in the reading, mathematics and science performance scores of 17-year-old students.

Page 5, [Exhibit H](#), shows statistics of who the workbound students were nationally and in Nevada. The statistics shown for Nevada differ from the

national data. On page 6, you will note that 66 percent of students are encouraged to go to college and 27 percent of students in the lower academic half are encouraged to go to college. The troubling fact is that 31 percent of students leave college with no credits. A student who attends the University of Nevada, Reno pays \$2,800 and the taxpayers pay an additional \$10,000 to \$12,000 for that student. High school remediation rates were 46 percent in the 4-year system and 62 percent in the 2-year system. After 10 years, 37 percent had obtained a degree but only 14 percent of the lower academic half. Of those students, 43 percent report underemployment 2 years later. There are more students with four-year degrees entering two-year technical institutions and community colleges than are leaving community colleges and entering four-year schools. Why is this happening? It is happening because they need to get a job. Jobs and education are mismatched. This is a national problem and is greater in Nevada.

Jobs for less educated workers have increased faster than the population with those credentials because we are changing. This has led to a downward occupational mobility because college graduates are taking high school graduate jobs. This is subsidized by the taxpayers.

MR. SCHMIDT:

There is a chart at the bottom of page 7, [Exhibit H](#), containing the data of which occupations have the largest job growth for the next ten years. It shows the amount of training needed, percent change and median wage. Under the occupation listing are jobs key to Nevada.

The charts on page 8, [Exhibit H](#), depict mathematics and science employments in the United States, 2004 to 2014 and the U.S. occupations with the largest job growth, 2002 to 2014. One in four Nevadans has worked for a company for less than one year. One in two has been working for a company for less than five years. This is important for job mobility because there are certain types of employment skills that are portable. If we want to keep the unemployment rates under control, we need to look at the skill demands. The workplace demands and the velocity of change are so dramatic that schools cannot keep up with the changes.

The pyramid on the top of page 11, [Exhibit H](#), shows employment in 1970 and the low-skilled jobs are at the base and the high-skilled jobs are at the top. This demonstrates a manufacturing-driven economy. This has changed dramatically

as we have changed into a service economy, as shown at the bottom of page 11. High skill does not necessarily mean college educated. At the top of page 12, the graph shows employment in the year 2010 where there is a shift to high skill, but not college-educated high skill.

It is a changing workplace. The traditional pathways are disappearing and the shelf life of many technical skills is decreasing. There is an increase in demand for paraprofessionals. There is an increased focus on general, generic and transportable skills.

Permanent full-time employment accounts for only half the workforce. Casual employment comprises nearly 27 percent of the workforce and part-time employment accounts for 11 percent of the workforce.

Technical information doubles every two years. What is necessary is a flexible education. We need to reform our institutions and focus on computer technology. There needs to be a focus on telecommunications and those alternatives to college.

The graphs on pages 15 and 16, [Exhibit H](#), focus on the basic set of education and an immediate transition into either vocational training or into the university level at 16 years of age. An important part of the Finnish Education System is that they tie employers in the regions directly to the high school, vocational and academic institutions. They are part of the oversight and the funding. They need to be flexible. They can put their technologies into their schools, so students can learn them in high school or in vocational education; therefore, the students will be gainfully employed after leaving school. There is a partnership between employers, academics, students and family members. In the Finnish Education System, children are 7 years of age when entering the system and they exit at 17 years of age. They have the number one school system in the world. There is no preschool and no kindergarten. They focus on career and technical education. It makes no difference whether you are a pig farmer or professor; it is as good to be a pediatrician as a pipe fitter. All occupations are treated equal.

MR. SCHMIDT:

Listed on page 18, [Exhibit H](#), is the "System Reform Alternatives-USA." There are other forms of education that have been around for decades. We know why and how career and technical education works. There should be a single industry that is themed or focused. They should have collocation with academic

and vocational instruction and a single school setting. All of these requirements can be found at the Academy of Career Education (ACE) Charter High School in Reno.

All children need the chance to succeed at challenging classes and classes that are relevant. All students need adult mentors who know them, look out for them and encourage them to achieve.

The nine recommendations on page 20 and 21 will encourage you to continue to support career and technical education.

Over 50 percent of the General Fund is going to education. There are places in the western world where these needs have been addressed. "Tough Choices Recommended Reforms" on page 22, [Exhibit H](#), talks about redeploying whatever the savings may be by using this system back into teachers, childhood education and the disadvantaged. This would enable us to recruit the top high school students to become teachers because we would be able to double teachers' salaries. Curriculums should be focused on tomorrow's needs. Schools serve as independent contractors. The top of page 23, [Exhibit H](#), is the executive summary proposal of a school system.

The expanding academic course work does not have a significant impact on academic learning. Adding extra classes did not do anything but drop out all of the vocational parts. College is not an end. It is only one path to work. Everyone is work bound. We need to understand Nevada's economy and potential. Also, we need to understand that there are political risks.

MR. SCHMIDT:

We have an education system that feeds itself. The individuals in the education system have chosen education as a vocation, not just an occupation. They in return must acknowledge the world has changed and will continue to change. Industry and students must work together in their own areas. We need some flexibility at the State level and the school district level to allow people who may not have had a formal education but who could teach our students.

On page 26, [Exhibit H](#), there are listed the "Tasks of Nevada Reform Movement." We must realign control of schools with communities. Governments, businesses and parents need to work together. To put our children out on the streets without sufficient skills to get a job will only burden

another form of our system. The graph at the bottom of page 26 shows what a reformed system would be in Nevada. In Reno, there is an exemplar in the ACE system.

NORMAN L. DIANDA (Q & D Construction, Incorporated)

We need to change the way we educate. We are doing an injustice to the student population that has the ability to do more than flunk out of school. The ACE school is a "diamond in the rough." Those who support this school will help it grow and the business community will benefit from its graduates. If you took every teacher in Nevada to see how students are being educated at the ACE school, it would be most beneficial. In the classroom there is the interaction of the students and the teacher as if they were a team. Those students need to feel that they are wanted and contributing.

Farming or other industries need people with skills. These people will come out of vocational schools. Students who graduate from a vocational technical program usually have a 3.0 or better grade point average. Our industry is not about a hammer, nail and shovel anymore, it is about people who need technical skills, they are not afraid to work and they will be able to support their families.

We must change the way we educate our children and provide education for the other half of the student population to provide us with a productive workforce. The State should be the leader in the way our students are educated.

I would suggest some of the Millennium Scholarship funds go to vocational education. I suggest taking the \$60 million or \$70 million suggested for all-day kindergarten and put it into the students who need help and get them on the right track.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

I will entertain a motion on Senate Bill (S.B.) 195. We want to send this bill with no recommendation from the Committee so that it will be rereferred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary.

SENATE BILL 195: Enacts provisions governing the operation and use of a recreation area. (BDR 40-492)

SENATOR CEGAVSKE MOVED TO REREFER S.B. 195 TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION.

SENATOR HECK SECONDED THE MOTION.
THE MOTION CARRIED. (SENATORS NOLAN, WIENER AND
WOODHOUSE WERE ABSENT FOR THE VOTE.)

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JOSEPH ENGE (Education Policy Analyst, Nevada Policy Research Institute):
I am in agreement with Mr. Schmidt's presentation. One of the major problems in education is the lack of responsiveness of the system and the lack of relevance to students. Students will rise to the challenge. We do not demand enough of our students. Other parts of the world do not know what a teenager is; in their countries they are either a child or an adult. The students at the ACE school build a house after their morning classes. The Washoe County School District tried to accomplish this method of teaching, but it was not a success. This is a perfect example of where we need to be. The students in their morning classes were learning English, mathematics or subjects directly connected to what they would be doing. When students think in practical terms, they can relate to the subjects. We need to ask ourselves, "Are the students there for the system or is the system there for the students?"

SENATOR HORSFORD:

There are several of us on this Committee who agree that current technical education is a big component and one that has not had enough emphasis in the traditional school setting. The ACE school is an excellent example. There are other schools such as ACE that are being formed in parts of the State. I hear constantly from employers that graduating students lack the skills necessary to enter the workforce. Our schools are not adequately addressing those areas.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

The one thing I have learned is, to change the course of an aircraft carrier takes increments. We are trying to change the course of this aircraft carrier. The more money we may pour in, the more legislation we may pass, the more regulations we may try to implement is to try to change the course of this aircraft carrier. The real question is; are we willing to change the bureaucratic maze and mess that we have created? That is the real question.

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MR. DIANDA:

The failure is that educators do not push vocational education. Children hear from their friends, parents and teachers, "You need to go to college." This is wrong. We are doing these students an injustice.

CHAIR WASHINGTON:

There being no further issues before us today, I will adjourn the meeting of the Senate Committee on Human Resources and Education at 12:32 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Patricia Vardakis,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Maurice E. Washington, Chair

DATE: _____