

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND EDUCATION
AND THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**Seventy-fifth Session
March 4, 2009**

The joint meeting of the Senate Committee on Health and Education and the Assembly Committee on Education was called to order by Chair Valerie Wiener at 3:37 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4, 2009, in Room 1214 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, Room 4412, 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.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Senator Valerie Wiener, Chair
Senator Joyce Woodhouse, Vice Chair
Senator Steven A. Horsford
Senator Shirley A. Breeden
Senator Maurice E. Washington
Senator Barbara K. Cegavske
Senator Dennis Nolan

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Assemblywoman Bonnie Parnell, Chair
Assemblyman Mo Denis, Vice Chair
Assemblyman David P. Bobzien
Assemblywoman Marilyn Dondero Loop
Assemblyman Joseph (Joe) P. Hardy
Assemblyman Ruben J. Kihuen
Assemblywoman April Mastroluca
Assemblyman Richard McArthur
Assemblyman Harvey J. Munford
Assemblyman Lynn D. Stewart
Assemblywoman Melissa Woodbury

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STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marsheilah D. Lyons, Committee Policy Analyst
Mindy Martini, Committee Policy Analyst
Sara Partida, Committee Counsel
Shauna Kirk, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Dr. Jane A. Nichols, Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, Nevada System of Higher Education
Todd Renwick, Associate Director, University of Nevada, Reno Police Services
Luis F. Valera, Director of Government Relations, University Advancement, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Brian Crowe, Coordinator, Environmental Health and Safety, Western Nevada College
Richard Hinckley, General Counsel, College of Southern Nevada
Casey Gallagher, Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum, Rural Nevada Senatorial District
Emily Stolworthy, Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum, Clark County Senatorial District No. 1
Jonathan Oglesby, Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum, Clark County Senatorial District No. 12
Lance Gonzalez, Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum, Washoe County Senatorial District No. 4
Mayra Garay, Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum, Clark County Senatorial District No. 7
Diana Chavez, Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum, Clark County Senatorial District No. 2
Zakary Fisher, Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum, Clark County Senatorial District No. 6
David Alexander Lopez, Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum, Clark County Senatorial District No. 10
Allison Ruesch, Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum, Clark County Senatorial District No. 5
Rene Cantu, Jr., Ph.D. Vice-President, Multicultural Affairs, Nevada State College
Misty Harris, Link Crew Coordinator, Carson High School Link Crew

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Julianna L. Ormsby, MSW, Public Policy Analysis, Government Affairs, League of Women Voters

Dr. Bryn Lapenta, Senior Director, Public Policy, Accountability & Assessment/Legislative Issues, Washoe County School District

Bart Mangino, Legislative Representative, Community & Government Relations, Clark County School District

Tyler Simms, Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum, Capital Senatorial District

David Fraser, Executive Director, Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities

CHAIR WIENER:

We will now begin the Joint Meeting of the Senate Committee on Health and Education and the Assembly Committee on Education. Let me explain about how today evolved. This is Nevada Youth Legislature Day in our building. We are all proud. The people who serve on these committees are people who have a very profound passion. This is a day that is dedicated to the work they have done and the work they have influenced. The beginning presentation on university and college safety programs was Senate Concurrent Resolution (S.C.R.) 13 which I brought this morning. It passed both houses unanimously. It dealt with safety programs in our institutions of higher learning. The inspiration for that resolution was the request of a youth legislator, Kyle Denison, from southern Nevada. It was his bill draft request as part of the process the youth legislators have been experiencing. It was not the one they chose to bring, in bill form, to the Legislature; however, I made the decision to bring it as a resolution to Carson City, today. It is an issue I have worked on as the Chair of the Interim Study on School Safety and Juvenile Violence. In the Floor statement that I shared on the Senate side, one of the incidents we referred to dealt with the death of Brianna Denison, who was Kyle's cousin. That was part of his reason for wanting that resolution. We are bringing forward some additional information on the university and college safety programs. We do have presenters from the university who are willing to come forward and share what is happening.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 13: Resolution Urges colleges and universities in this State to establish campus safety programs. (BDR R-608)

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DR. JANE A. NICHOLS (Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs, Nevada System of Higher Education):

I am going to lead off with comments about the activities of our campuses and of our regents over the last few years, particularly in response to some of the tragedies that you are aware of. I would like for you to be aware that the Board of Regents has an extensive policy on campus safety. It has policies on police and security forces. Several years ago, it adopted a strong policy on a community policing model as opposed to the traditional; police being there to catch you doing something. The police assist students and are a part of the orientation for students. They are there on each campus for the students to turn to for help. The whole culture has shifted from years ago when the police on the campus were seen as the student's enemy. We have also heard and require each institution to have emergency preparedness plans. We also have pandemic plans in place on each campus. We also have hate-crime policies in place that emphasize our security forces and police working with the students as well as our staff to understand and prevent hate crimes. We also have been looking at emergency notification systems and the campuses are going to give you more detail on exactly what they are doing, for example, to ensure that there is a way to get in touch with all students very quickly should an emergency happen. This is part of the Board of Regents, Cultural Diversity and Security Committee. The campuses bring forward to the Board a security review of each campus on a regular basis.

Campuses that have police departments are required to have external reviews to make sure they are doing everything they need to be doing at this time. In December, we received, *Legislative Counsel Bureau Bulletin No. 09-09: Safety within the Schools and Colleges*. We agree with that report and its recommendations, and we are implementing them as quickly as we can and as quickly as finances will allow at each of our campuses. If funding becomes available in any of the pending legislation, we will be at the forefront seeking that funding to carry out all of the recommendations. We are relieved to tell you that there are new interpretations of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Those guidelines protect confidentiality of student records. That was a big issue in the Virginia Polytechnic Institute incident, because there were many on campus who felt that under the federal regulations they could not share information about a student who was in trouble and potentially dangerous, either to himself or to others. We now have a revamping of the FERPA guidelines. At the last Board meeting, counsel outlined for the campuses

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changes to the FERPA guidelines that identify ways we can do something when it becomes clear that a student is potentially in trouble. Many of those changes to FERPA are for both K-12 and higher education.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN PARNELL:

Some of the high schools have a Secret Witness program where you can text or telephone in if you hear something or have a concern. Do we have a system similar to that in our university system?

DR. NICHOLS:

We have no Board policy on that. It would be up to individual institutions.

TODD RENWICK (Associate Director, University of Nevada, Reno Police Services):

I am here on the behalf of Adam Garcia, who could not be here today. We use the general Secret Witness line that the State uses in their particular areas. We do not have one set up like the school district does, such as a stand-alone from the traditional Secret Witness. We get several of our tips from Secret Witness.

CHAIR WIENER:

Dr. Nichols, please provide the information on FERPA to each of the house committees of jurisdiction.

DR. NICHOLS:

We will as soon as it becomes finalized.

CHAIR WIENER:

Does that apply to K-12 and higher education as well?

DR. NICHOLS:

There are differences because we are dealing with adults, but FERPA applies to both K-12 and higher education in the protection of confidentiality of records.

MR. RENWICK:

The University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) is in support of your resolution. We have made a real commitment to enhance safety for our students and adopt several safety programs that are available to incoming students and well as current students. We understand that our university campuses are open, and because they are open in nature, we attract a lot of people. Campuses are beautiful and

have a lot of culture on them. In addition, we get people from all walks of life that come through our campuses. We do recognize that and consider ourselves a community within a community. That in itself makes it a very unique experience for our young adults that come through our campuses. They do present some challenges for us as police. The University does have several resources in place to provide for our students, faculty, visitors from other states and the community. We are worldwide, so we get a lot of international people that come to our campus. We are a full-service police department. We are trained, certified police officers and provide 24 hours a day, 7 days a week patrol. We also have a reserve officer program in place to expand our presence when needed. We are available to the students by dialing 911 or our office. We also have a consolidated dispatch center in the City of Reno from which we dispatch.

We do have a new student cadet program in place that cadets will be starting next week. We work with our Parking and Transportation Services Department. Without that relationship, we would not be able to put a student cadet program together. We have a free shuttle service that is available to our students to parking and transportation. They can take the shuttle from the remote parking lots to the main campus and also out to the residential halls while they are at the campus. Our campus escort services, funded by students, provide safe transportation by vans and vehicles within a two-mile radius on the campus. They operate every semester between 5 p.m. and 1 a.m., Sunday through Wednesday, and 5 p.m. to 3 a.m., Thursday through Saturday. The students call a dispatch center for a ride which will pick them up and take them where they need to go. These vans are clearly marked for escort transportation and the drivers have clearly identified uniforms as well. Last year, our students' escort services transported over 27,000 people; 70 percent were females and 43 percent were students who live on campus. We feel this is an important service to fund and a commitment to the students on behalf of the University. It is about a \$150,000 per-year project. We have an emergency blue light campaign at our campus. Currently we have 72 of these blue light emergency call boxes in our parking structures. In addition to those 72 emergency phones, we have 25 spread throughout the campus in remote and high-traffic areas. If somebody needed to contact the police immediately, they would hit the emergency button for police. In addition to that, we added a button for escort service. If our students did not have a cellular phone or did not know the

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number, they would locate one of our emergency call boxes and use the escort button to get a ride from our escort services,

CHAIR WIENER:

Do you know what kind of response you have had with the blue light tools that you provide? Do you track the use of those tools as you have tracked the use of your escort vans?

MR. RENWICK:

We do. Before putting up the blue lights, we did some research and ultimately found out there is very low use of these devices. The frequency of false alarms is low. They have been used a couple of times but not in true emergency situations. I hope they are more of a deterrent and never will be used for that purpose.

CHAIR WIENER:

Do you have any statistical data prior to this deterrent as to what the incidents of violence or harassment on campus might have been?

MR. RENWICK:

From national statistics, we know one in four college-age females will experience what you are talking about. That is the age group between 18 and 24 years. As we develop our enhanced programs, we are trying to gear the educational aspect to taking away the opportunity and teaching awareness. Removing the opportunity has been a consistent message over the last several years that we have been promoting the program. In all of these cases, we find that typically the opportunity was there which led to the act of violence. Recently, we put together a campus-wide text messaging notification system for which students and parents can opt. If there was an emergency on campus, they would get a text message that would explain what they needed to do or what was taking place. In addition, we can do campus-wide e-mails. We can do what we call a voicemail dump. We can record a message, and it will blast out to the campus and go to everyone's voice-mail boxes. We have an emergency-notification Webpage where we list information and refer people to.

CHAIR WIENER:

Did the program with all of the technology come online at the same time?

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MR. RENWICK:

We started with our e-mail mass notification where we can type important information, safety alerts and a crime watch and send an e-mail, not to just faculty and staff, but to students as well.

CHAIR WIENER:

Do you know what portion of the population has signed up for that?

MR. RENWICK:

We have around 5,000 people signed up on the emergency text messaging. If you have an e-mail address registered at the university, you are going to get an e-mail if we send an e-mail. The text messaging is an option you can sign up for, and we have been campaigning around the campus to do that. It is very simple to sign up on the Webpage. You can sign up more than one telephone.

ASSEMBLYMAN BOBZIEN:

I have a lot of misgivings and concerns about the consistency of information that was presented by the campus, as a whole, particularly relating to the incidents leading up to the Denison tragedy. The e-mails that came from UNR's police department were the clearest, most direct and non-sugarcoated communication that the University put forward. Most of the students do not have the e-mail they most often use registered with the campus. It concerns me that there was a disconnect between the e-mail messages sent about other attacks and safety, and what did not show up on the Website or in the most public of communications media available to the University. Are the text messages going to be used for instances like "There was another attack that occurred and this is what we know"? Has there been discussion about the appropriate balance of information at the highest levels in the University and when to communicate it? I understand that you do not want to unnecessarily panic people. I have heard from a variety of sources that people felt in the dark about what was going on after the Denison attack.

MR. RENWICK:

We understood all of the concerns going into this. We had several conversations between University police, Information Technology and the University administration as well as other campuses that have systems in place. This system is not sponsored by any outside entity, so there will not be any spam. If a message goes out, it is going to be an important emergency message that the

campus needs to know. If you got a message that came up on your phone, it is one of those that you should read. We had done everything we could, information-wise, to let people know that they would not be spammed by signing up for this, to eliminate people not wanting to sign up because they get tired of looking at spam. As far as being in the dark when these types of incidents happen, I understand what you are saying about some of the messages that were going around. It is the double-edged sword we have with the technology we have to reach out and touch a large amount of people. People start to send their own messages and might tweak them a little bit. When that happens, misinformation gets spread around. In addition to working with the media outlets to make sure the messages were all consistent, the University found it became a full-time mission to make sure that what was going out was the gospel and trying to clarify some of the rumors that were being spread.

We also have the capability, through our regional communication systems, to do reverse 911. We can highlight a geographical area on our campus and have a 911 recorded message that will call your telephone or your house to let you know if something was taking place in an emergency situation. We have encouraged and trained several students to make better choices, and to make safety their number-one priority when they wake up in the morning and throughout their day. These were tips that are easy for someone to adopt and make part of their life. We have self-defense classes. We have an option for female students to take a one-credit class for a semester of self-defense training taught by police officers who are certified to teach specific techniques. We also offer a crash-course self-defense class which is a 12-hour class and it teaches self-defense as well as risk reduction and awareness. We periodically do one-hour classes for safety-related information. Our students play a huge role in this campaign. We have a lot of student-led events. There is a safety discussion forum, safety tips and a safety fair where we call in other local law enforcement agencies and vendors related to safety.

We have a group called "Personal Safety and Sexual Assault Prevention." This is a collaborative effort between UNR counseling services, police services, student health, student conduct, campus escort and various other community agencies such as the Crisis Call Center and the Nevada Coalition Against Sexual Violence. Their mission is to promote student safety through education and support. They have recruited students from the University who have become

peer educators to discuss awareness and risk-reduction techniques, how to plan with safety in mind, working with law enforcement and what resources are available to victims of crime, what type of counseling is out there and the advocacy that we can provide. That group helps us promote the self-defense training. We also campaign with our leaders on campus and our student groups. We walk the campus twice a year in the evening hours looking for unsafe and poorly lit areas and get them fixed. The tools and information that we distribute to our students and our campus include free whistles. We partnered with Secret Witness which donated a lot of money for us to buy several thousand whistles. Our emergency information Website reviews services and resources that we provide. We give out safety-tip cards. It is a part of student orientation every year. We have filmed safety videos that play through the high traffic areas at the University. Our resident halls' entrances are very secure. They are on time-lock systems and you have to have a pass card to get in. There are procedures in place for natural disasters. The residence assistants are very passionate about their jobs. We have officers assigned to liaison with them. I will submit my notes which highlight what I have discussed with you today ([Exhibit C](#)).

LUIS F. VALERA (Director of Government Relations, University Advancement, University of Nevada, Las Vegas):

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas have many of the same programs you have just heard about. I will highlight some that are a little bit different. We also have a campus safety walk where we bring faculty and students to walk the campus and look for areas that are poorly lit. We also have about 75 blue light call boxes which is a small tower with a blue light on top. In case of an emergency, you just have to push a button to communicate with campus police directly. They can locate you immediately. We also have a tram on campus called "The Ride." It is a minibus that transports students to and from the remote parking areas to the main campus. Our officers have also had active shooter training. We have a monitoring system across campus that consists of about 80 cameras, the emergency notification using text messages and the e-mail system. We are still in the initial stages of getting people enrolled, and our dorms also have the pass card access.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

I have a relative going to UNR now. Is there a period of time at the dorms that they do not check the cards? Why do you not do this all of the time?

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MR. VALERA:

It is a security measure that is mainly used in the evenings.

SENATOR CEGAVSKE:

It starts at 6 p.m. Why not all day long?

MR. VALERA:

I do not know, but I will find out.

CHAIR WIENER:

Is it quite different than what is going on at UNR?

MR. VALERA:

No. There are a lot of the same programs.

CHAIR WIENER:

Will you provide your prepared remarks to the Committee?

MR. VALERA:

Yes.

BRIAN CROWE (Coordinator, Environmental Health and Safety, Western Nevada College):

We are doing many of the same things at Western Nevada College that the universities are doing, but on a smaller scale. In reaction to Virginia Tech, we already had a student crisis intervention team in place. We look for distressed students and deal with situations associated with that. We have been successful in having faculty and other staff members report situations before we get a pattern going like at Virginia Tech where they did not connect the dots. We feel that we have a strong program in place. We can only do it with the support of everyone on our campus. Training is the real key for us. We have a strong emergency plan. We have also used the Legislature's report. We have used the report from the Virginia Tech review panel as well as the information we get from local police departments and the National Association of Attorneys General Task Force on School and Campus Safety. We put together mass notification systems on campuses. We got a homeland security grant through Carson City and augmented that with our funding, putting in a large siren on our

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campus and using internal building speakers to augment it with a radio system. We do drills every semester.

We have also done the same thing on our Fallon campus with a homeland security grant and put in an intercom system that works as a paging system through our telephones. It is very effective. We do tabletop exercises on our campus. We bring in our president and our vice president together with other groups that want these training sessions and give them a specific incident which is happening to see how they react. This has improved the ability of all members of our campus to react correctly in these types of situations. We had special training during the Denison situation because our student association was very concerned about what was going on. We drew expertise from UNR to our campus to help us with those presentations. They knew more specifics about the incident than we did. There is sharing between the universities and colleges regarding emergency planning. We do have video screens on our campus and next semester we will be using our blast cellular telephone system. The key things are the drills and training. When we do live training, we have five or six presenters from different aspects. We will need funding for more door locks and emergency call boxes as we do not have any emergency call boxes on our campus.

CHAIR WIENER:

What is the student population that you respond to at your campus?

MR. CROWE:

We have 3,000 at the Carson Campus and 5,500 area-wide.

RICHARD HINCKLEY (General Counsel, College of Southern Nevada):

I will be brief and endorse the comments of those that have already testified. Campus safety is a product of the efforts of our students, which currently number 40,000, faculty and staff, our police department and security forces. The College of Southern Nevada (CSN) has campuses that are generally safe with the minimum of criminal activity which allows our employees and patrons to focus on their educational missions. Some of the unique characteristics that CSN has are that our campuses are in various locations. They are open access; they are generally used from early morning until late in the evening with many activities going on at any given time. We promote a very visible police and

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security presence and endorse all of the previous things presented before you today.

CHAIR WIENER:

Do you have residents on campus as some of the others do?

MR. CROWE:

We do not have any resident halls. Our students are a combination of commuters, living at home or other areas, going to the various campuses.

CHAIR WIENER:

Do you think that because these are commuter campuses you have greater challenges with all of the engagement of automobiles?

MR. CROWE:

Those issues are mainly parking and dealing with patrolling the areas for safety and to avoid auto theft. We also deal with the potential for auto collisions. We have not had any significant problems brought to us because of that.

CHAIR WIENER:

We will close the presentation on S.C.R. 13 and open the hearing on Senate Bill (S.B.) 77.

SENATE BILL 77: Provides for the establishment of programs of teen mentoring in public high schools. (BDR 34-696)

CASEY GALLAGHER (Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum, Rural Nevada Senatorial District):

This bill was my original bill draft request (BDR). It moves to set up teen-mentoring programs in Nevada high schools. It gives the school districts the opportunity to set up teen-mentoring program policies which the principals can then put into effect in their high schools. What drove me to propose this bill was the lack of motivation in teens around this State. There are a lot of students around the high schools today who are not motivated to be involved in school activities or community activities. There are a lot of opportunities for kids that are not being utilized. The lack of involvement in schools leads to students dropping out and the dropout rate is increasing. All of these aspects led me to propose this bill. I was able to get on a local television station to mention a

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town hall meeting. I advertised for three days in a row about the meeting and the different issues that the teens felt they faced. The town mayor and I were the only ones who came to the meeting. This is an example of the lack of motivation in teens. We do have a teen-mentoring program in which the juniors and seniors from our high school get together with incoming freshman to get them involved in high school activities. That is where this bill comes from. By passing this bill, we will create leaders who will be ready to handle challenges that will come.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MASTROLUCA:

I have a couple of questions regarding the guidelines for establishing eligibility. Is this geared to high school, or are you looking at high school students that can mentor junior high students?

MR. GALLAGHER:

The way I see this, as well as the Nevada Youth Legislators, this would be for high school students. Eligibility has the same requirements as any other activity in the high school. We do not want to limit some mentors from being able to share with the other members.

SENATOR HORSFORD:

The mentoring issue was highly recommended based on a statewide youth school safety forum.

ASSEMBLYMAN STEWART:

I strongly support this. You all have done a great job.

EMILY STOLWORTHY (Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum, Clark County Senatorial District No. 1):

I am in support of this bill because if we do have teen mentors, participation will rise. When freshman have a junior or senior mentoring them, their self-esteem increases, and their grades and attendance improve because they feel more a part of the school.

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JONATHAN OGLESBY (Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum, Clark County Senatorial District No. 12):

I serve as Vice Chair of the Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum and am a proud representative of the people of youth of Clark County Senatorial District No. 12. I have prepared testimony that I will read ([Exhibit D](#)).

LANCE GONZALEZ (Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum, Washoe County Senatorial District No. 4):

In my freshman year of high school, I was not involved in anything. Bishop Manogue Catholic High School has a central mentoring program called the senior buddy program. Every freshman is matched up with a senior. My senior was the student body president. He encouraged me to run for student council, and it got me involved. From that point forward, I became very involved in student council as well as other areas. The positive influence of one person helped me do this. The reason my principal presented to me the opportunity to apply for this program was because of what I had done in student council and how I had gotten into the program. What I saw was that these mentoring programs have a positive influence.

ASSEMBLYMAN MUNFORD:

Will this be difficult to implement with a large school? What is the size of your school?

MR. GONZALEZ:

My school has approximately 700 students. It does become more difficult with the size of the school; however, as the size goes up, you will have a larger sampling pool. While it may become more difficult to implement, it is more beneficial to implement. This bill sets out provisions that would help implement it. It asks to create a committee in the school to oversee the students that are selected to make sure the school is getting the best students to mentor.

ASSEMBLYMAN MUNFORD:

Do you ever encounter schools that reject the mentoring?

MR. GONZALEZ:

You will have some students that fall through the cracks. A personal mentoring program like this is a great way to ensure that the students do not fall through the cracks. Instead of a teacher or counselor being worried about a hundred or

more students, you would have 1 student that would worry about 12 students in a big school. If you have a student with a low grade-point average (GPA), the school can suggest getting involved in student council and introduce the student to someone with a higher GPA. This would help the student with the higher GPA as well. You cannot make students do something or take an action, but they will be much more likely to have a complete turnaround having these mentors.

CHAIR WIENER:

Do you believe that this mentoring program will provide the opportunities to address concerns of violence and bullying?

MR. GONZALEZ:

Absolutely. It gives students a chance to be involved in something. If the mentor sees the student being bullied, they can address the problem. It will help on multiple levels. You will not just see a decrease in drinking and driving, violence or bullying, but you will see an overall increase in student involvement across the board. There is no fiscal note, and it improves our education system.

MAYRA GARAY (Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum, Clark County Senatorial District No. 7):

I am in support of S.B. 77. It is important for our youth to be given the opportunity to have positive influences. Many times in many high schools, you see a lot of students who are not involved in the school. This is most likely due to the fact that these opportunities are not given on an individual basis. It is given en masse to everybody and nothing is ever addressed individually. With individual counseling, students will be more likely to try new things because they will have someone there on a one-to-one basis to address their needs and be given counseling as needed. This will help them academically and engage them in other positive activities.

DIANA CHAVEZ (Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum, Clark County Senatorial District No. 2):

I am in support of this bill. There are many students in my school who do not want to participate in this, but if they see that their friends are participating, they may become more interested in this as well as other activities. There are approximately 3,000 students in my school and this will help the students to feel they are all a part of something and make more of their time in school.

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ZAKARY FISHER (Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum, Clark County Senatorial District No. 6):

I am here today to express my support for this bill. This adds the sharing experience to the high school environment and that is important. A senior who is about to graduate from high school has a lot of experience to share with the freshman. This bill gives the school and the county a canvas to paint upon, to create a specialized program for mentoring our youth.

DAVID ALEXANDER LOPEZ (Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum, Clark County Senatorial District No. 10):

I am also in support of this bill. The youth of today are the future of tomorrow. We need to do our best to let them know that they can do something to get involved in their community.

ALLISON RUESCH (Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum, Clark County Senatorial District No. 5):

I am in support of this bill as well. I would have liked to have had this as a freshman. It will create a chain of events to get students involved.

RENE CANTU, JR., PH.D. (Vice-President, Multicultural Affairs, Nevada State College):

I am here in support of teen mentoring. I have written testimony that I will read ([Exhibit E](#)).

MISTY HARRIS (Link Crew Coordinator, Carson High School Link Crew):

I am also in support of S.B. 77 and have written testimony I will read ([Exhibit F](#)).

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DONDERO LOOP:

Do you find that you have a lot of students who want to do this, or do you have to recruit students to do this?

MS. HARRIS:

When we first started, we really had to sell the program to the students. Now what we look for are students who do not see themselves as leaders. I ask teachers to encourage those students and have gotten some excellent "Link" leaders by doing that.

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ASSEMBLYWOMAN PARNELL:

Will you explain how you train your mentors to know when to go to someone, when to go to a counselor or when to do something when they are in that position?

Ms. HARRIS:

I train all my Link leaders, and I am 100 percent there for them. If they feel they are not comfortable with information that a freshman is sharing with them, I encourage them to come to me. If it is something that I can coach that Link leader to help them with, I do it that way so they can keep that connection. If it is something I need to deal with for intervention, I would step in or have a counselor step in.

ASSEMBLYMAN MUNFORD:

What is the demographic population breakdown at Carson High School?

Ms. HARRIS:

It is 3-percent Native American, 3-percent African American, 24-percent Hispanic, approximately 1-percent Asian American and the remainder is Caucasian. We have approximately 2,400 students.

ASSEMBLYMAN MUNFORD:

Do you have any type of gang problems?

Ms. HARRIS:

Yes.

ASSEMBLYMAN MUNFORD:

Do you have any type of a bilingual program?

Ms. HARRIS:

We do have several students that help with interpreting in classes.

JULIANNA L. ORMSBY, MSW (Public Policy Analysis, Government Affairs, League of Women Voters):

I am in support of this bill and urge your support.

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DR. BRYN LAPENTA (Senior Director, Public Policy, Accountability & Assessment/Legislative Issues, Washoe County School District):
We are in full support of this bill.

BART MANGINO (Legislative Representative, Community & Government Relations, Clark County School District):
I have seen the power of mentoring, and I am also in support of this bill.

CHAIR WIENER:
We will now close the hearing on S.B. 77 and open the hearing of S.B. 161.

[SENATE BILL 161](#): Revises provisions governing the Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum. (BDR 34-91)

VICE CHAIR WOODHOUSE:
Senator Wiener will now testify on behalf of S.B. 161.

SENATOR VALERIE WIENER (Clark County Senatorial District No. 3):
I have prepared testimony I will read ([Exhibit G](#)). I also have amendments to offer for the bill ([Exhibit H](#)).

TYLER SIMMS (Nevada Youth Legislative Issues Forum, Capital Senatorial District):
I am in support of S.B. 161.

MR. OGLESBY:
I am also in support of S.B. 161 and its revisions.

DAVID FRASER (Executive Director, Nevada League of Cities and Municipalities):
I am in support of S.B. 161.

MR. GALLAGHER:
I am also in support of S.B. 161.

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VICE CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

We will now adjourn the Joint Meeting of the Senate Committee on Health and Education and the Assembly Committee on Education meeting at 5:41 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Shauna Kirk,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator Valerie Wiener, Chair

DATE: _____