

**MINUTES OF THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

**Eightieth Session  
March 25, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Education was called to order by Chair Moises Denis at 1:09 p.m. on Monday, March 25, 2019, in Room 1214 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4404B of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 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 Moises Denis, Chair  
Senator Joyce Woodhouse, Vice Chair  
Senator Dallas Harris  
Senator Marcia Washington  
Senator Scott Hammond  
Senator Ira Hansen  
Senator Keith F. Pickard

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jen Sturm, Committee Policy Analyst  
Steven Jamieson, Committee Secretary  
Linda Hiller, Committee Secretary

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Crystal Abba, Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, Nevada System of Higher Education  
Thom Reilly, Ph.D., Chancellor, Nevada System of Higher Education  
E. Lee Bernick, Ph.D., Professor of Public Policy, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Federico Zaragoza, Ph.D, President, College of Southern Nevada  
Lucas Testa  
Rene Cantu, Jr., Ph.D., Executive Director, Jobs for America's Graduates Nevada  
Luis Martin

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Nadia Alvizo  
Bryan Ruiz  
Akira Terry  
Victoria Wright-Forslund  
Brandon Pastorius  
Jazmin Villagomez  
Edgar Patino, Vice Chair, Government Affairs and Finance, Latin Chamber of Commerce  
Sylvia Lazos, Co-Leader, Nevada Immigration Coalition  
Kent M. Ervin, Ph.D., Nevada Faculty Alliance  
Taylor Furr  
Maria Marinch, Executive Director, Inclusive Learning and Engagement, College of Southern Nevada  
Sam Lieberman, Regent, Nevada System of Higher Education  
Leonardo Benavidas, Clark County School District  
Natalie Calderon  
Aurora De la Torre  
Gustavo Antonio Rico  
Maria Nieto  
Wilson Hatcher, Academic Advisor, College of Southern Nevada  
J.W. Lazzari, Director of Financial Aid, Western Nevada College  
Cecia Alvarado, State Director, Mi Familia Vota  
Ryan Black, City of Las Vegas  
David Dazlich, Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce  
Miles Dickson, Chief of Staff, Office of the State Treasurer  
Ruben Murillo, Jr., President, Nevada State Education Association  
Nate Mackinnon, Vice Chancellor, Community Colleges, Nevada System of Higher Education  
Michelle Kim, Clark County Education Association  
Nancy Brune, Director, Kenny Guinn Center for Policy Priorities

CHAIR DENIS:

I will open the meeting of the Senate Committee on Education by welcoming students from the College of Southern Nevada (CSN). We have some bill draft requests (BDR) to introduce. The first BDR is 38-815.

**BILL DRAFT REQUEST 38-815:** Exempts private schools that provide a program of early childhood education from requirements relating to certain child care facilities. (Later introduced as [Senate Bill 468](#).)

SENATOR WOODHOUSE MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR 38-815.

SENATOR HAMMOND SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DENIS:

The next BDR is 34-818.

**BILL DRAFT REQUEST 34-818**: Revises provisions relating to the reorganization of certain school districts. (Later introduced as [Senate Bill 469](#).)

SENATOR WOODHOUSE MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR 34-818.

SENATOR PICKARD SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DENIS:

The next BDR we want to introduce is S-820, which extends the duration of Zoom and Victory schools.

**BILL DRAFT REQUEST S-820**: Revises provisions relating to education. (Later introduced as [Senate Bill 467](#).)

SENATOR WOODHOUSE MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR S-820.

SENATOR HARRIS SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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CHAIR DENIS:

I will turn the gavel over to Vice Chair Woodhouse now as I present my bill.

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VICE CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

I will open Senate Bill (S.B.) 350, the Nevada Promise Scholarship Program.

**SENATE BILL 350**: Revises provisions relating to Nevada Promise Scholarships.  
(BDR 34-308)

SENATOR MOISES DENIS (Senatorial District No. 2):

Senate Bill 350 revises provisions relating to the Nevada Promise Scholarship. Over the last several years across the U.S., the cost of college has increased dramatically. We hear about new federal and state scholarship programs being created each year. For many families, college is still not an option and remains unaffordable.

During the 2017-2018 Interim, I served as Vice Chair on the Committee to Conduct a Study Concerning the Cost and Affordability of Higher Education. The Committee studied programs, policies and funding to make higher education more financially accessible to Nevada residents. A representative of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) presented to the Committee that while the cost of higher education in Nevada is relatively low compared to other western states, the cost is rising more rapidly than increases in household income.

According to WICHE, between 2007 and 2017, undergraduate tuition and fees at two-year institutions in Nevada increased by 50 percent while the western region average increased by 41 percent. In an effort to aid in the affordability of higher education costs, I sponsored a bill last session, S.B. No. 391 of the 79th Session, creating the Nevada Promise Scholarship, which passed unanimously in both houses.

While S.B. No. 391 of the 79th Session provided a good starting point, concerns were raised during the Interim Committee meetings and also by constituents who have reached out to me over some of the provisions of the program. One of the biggest issues concerned specific statutory language resulting in inflexibility for students who do not meet each deadline. One of the challenges is that once students miss one of the multiple deadlines, they are not eligible for the Scholarship. The deadlines are strict and unforgiving because they are set in statute.

Another challenge in implementing the Promise Scholarship Program was unclear guidelines for different student groups, including Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), homeschooled students, those with an individualized education program and students who go on religious missions.

Other people addressed challenges with the volunteer and mentoring requirements. Specifically, it was difficult finding age appropriate volunteer opportunities that did not conflict with school schedules and recruiting enough community volunteers to participate in the mentoring program. Additionally, many participating institutions suggested providing additional money for the program to cover certain administrative and marketing costs.

Some of the changes S.B. 350 makes to S.B. No. 391 of the 79th Session include the transfer of authority to award scholarships from the participating community colleges to the Board of Regents, the removal of certain statutory requirements directed to participating community colleges and the elimination of certain eligibility requirement deadlines set in statute, requiring the Board of Regents to adopt related regulations. Rather than renewing the Scholarship each year, S.B. 350 allows students to remain eligible for the Scholarship as long as they meet certain requirements and until they are either awarded a degree or have received the scholarship for 3 academic years.

Previously, a student had to complete 20 hours of community service prior to receiving the Scholarship and 20 hours each year while receiving the Scholarship. Senate Bill 350 requires 8 hours of community service prior to receiving the Scholarship and 8 hours each year thereafter. It similarly decreases the number of training meetings a student must attend from two meetings to one meeting prior to enrolling in a community college. The bill also allows for a leave of absence from the program in certain circumstances.

When the Nevada Promise Scholarship Program was implemented last year, we had 12,000 students apply. Not all of the applicants completed the requirements, but you can imagine the challenge of having that many people trying to do 20 hours of community service that is age appropriate.

The deadline issue was important, because the students had to do certain things by October and there were also December deadlines. One of the requirements was to meet with a mentor. In high school, the mentoring was difficult to

arrange one-on-one because of the fingerprinting requirements and more. Trying to work out all of these issues drove many of the changes in S.B. 350.

We had 1,200 mentors with the first phase of the Scholarship and many businesses and organizations stepped up to provide mentors. This year, we had 14,000 applicants for the Scholarship and now when I talk to students and counselors in high school, they are all familiar with the Nevada Promise Scholarship Program. For some kids this is a back-up and for others, it is their only opportunity to attend college.

One of the reasons we brought the bill forward is because we were leaving around \$80 million per year on the table in Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) dollars because not enough people were applying, thinking they could not go to college. Those who apply for the Promise Scholarship must fill out the FAFSA application. As a result, we have been able to get more federal dollars into the State for education.

While the cost of higher education in Nevada is relatively low compared to the rest of the western region, the affordability is worsening. Senate Bill 350 makes changes that will increase participation in the program and help students maintain the Scholarship until they graduate.

SENATOR HAMMOND:

Language was struck from the original bill, S.B. No. 391 of the 79th Session, *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 396.9675, making anyone who submits false information ineligible for the Scholarship. If that happens, is there a chance to get the Promise Scholarship back? Would it impact other scholarships offered from the State? And if you are taking that out of the bill, what are the penalties for submitting false information?

CRYSTAL ABBA (Vice Chancellor, Academic and Student Affairs, Nevada System of Higher Education):

I believe that language is in another section of the bill, S.B. 350. There were some challenges with that section and with NRS 396.967. I will be talking about that later as I go through the bill.

SENATOR HAMMOND:

I appreciate that; I know it is back in the bill somewhere. The second part of my question is, if it is taken away from someone, does he or she have an

opportunity to get it back? Also, does it impact other scholarships the State offers?

THOM REILLY, PH.D. (Chancellor, Nevada System of Higher Education):

We support S.B. 350 with enthusiasm. Nevada is 49th in the nation in the percentage of individuals between the ages of 18 and 24 who go into any type of higher education. We do not have a culture of higher education here, and the fear of the burden from debt and the lack of belief in themselves prevents many people from enrolling in college. Then there is the cost of college, including the textbooks, transportation and living expenses that prevent many from going to college full-time. This Nevada Promise Scholarship Program has significantly changed the behavior of individuals who normally would not have gone on to higher education.

As Senator Denis mentioned, last year we had 12,000 applicants and 800 of those received a Scholarship. This year we are approaching 14,000 applicants, so we have a significant increase. This is central to our goal of increasing access. It has done a tremendous amount in strengthening our partnership with K-12 systems.

Last year, we had more than 30,000 hours of community service, including mentors. In fact, I participated in mentoring and benefitted greatly. We had two roundtable discussions of Nevada Promise students; one at CSN and one at Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC). Regardless of where the students are in the State, we heard firsthand from students who would not have enrolled in college had it not been for this Scholarship. I am pleased with the recommendations Senator Denis is posing, particularly around some of the challenges we have seen with our undocumented students in accessing the program.

E. LEE BERNICK, PH.D. (Professor of Public Policy, University of Nevada, Las Vegas):

My presentation ([Exhibit C](#)) is a preliminary evaluation from some research done by myself and Dr. Katheryn C. Brekken from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). Our findings are based on five different areas; page 2, [Exhibit C](#). We are fairly confident with our findings.

On page 3, you can see who applied for the Promise Scholarship and who received it. The Hispanic high school seniors applied at a relatively high rate of

54 percent. White student applicants were next at 27 percent, black students were third at 10 percent with Asians at 9 percent. The population of Hispanic seniors in high school in Nevada is 41 percent, so the applicants exceeded that school population. Of the students who completed the application process, 44 percent were Hispanic, 40 percent were white, 10 percent were Asian and 6 percent were black.

On page 4, [Exhibit C](#), we found that 58 percent said the process of applying for the Promise Scholarship influenced their decision to go to college, which is important. In fact, 15 percent of the students we surveyed said they were not even thinking of going to college until the Promise Scholarship came to their attention. That is huge.

On page 5, [Exhibit C](#), close to 70 percent of the Hispanic students said the Promise Scholarship had a significant impact on their decision to attend college. What is interesting is that of those students going to a university, even though they were not getting Promise dollars, 42 percent said the Promise Scholarship influenced their decision to go to college.

On page 6, [Exhibit C](#), it shows that the application process mattered. A major benefit of the Nevada Promise Scholarship Program was having the students learn about the FAFSA process and thus getting information about financial aid in general.

On page 7, we break down the applicants, who were more likely to be eligible for a Free and Reduced Priced Lunch (FRL), minorities and those with low American College Testing program scores. Those who completed the process were less likely to be FRL and they tended to be white. When asked what the most difficult requirement for the Scholarship was, community service had the highest percentage, followed by applying for financial aid, mentors and the training; page 8, [Exhibit C](#). The difficulty with the community service was not the process of doing it as much as it was the time commitment involved.

On page 9, [Exhibit C](#), a major takeaway we discovered was that counselors in the high schools matter. The application process varied significantly by what school the students attended and they indicated that they heard about the program from their counselors. Some said they did not even know about the Scholarship during the first year of implementation. We also have to look at the counselors, because some are deciding which students should apply, which



students should not apply and which students would likely be receiving Pell Grants, saying they did not need to apply for the Promise Scholarship. That is an issue.

The relationship with community colleges and high schools makes a difference and we concluded that this relationship is important and that high schools make a difference in this process.

Like most new programs, the first year of implementation with the Nevada Promise Scholarship Program was a challenge. We have already seen an increase in applicants, going from 12,000 to 14,000 in one year. We need strong communication to increase the applicants and reduce the uncertainty of the program. A number of the counselors we talked to were unsure about pushing it with their students because they were not sure it would last. If the Scholarship has stability, more students will apply. Additionally, a number of counselors said that undocumented students were left out of the process and that something needs to be done for them.

While Chancellor Reilly talked about 800 students receiving the Promise Scholarship dollars, the benefits exceed those dollars because of the number of students who are Pell Grant recipients, because they completed the FAFSA when applying for the Promise Scholarship. That process led them to other financial aid that they were qualified for and received. The number of students who used the Promise and then went on to universities for their degrees was also a benefit from the initial scholarship process. This is important. The Nevada Promise Scholarship Program has a significant benefit for high school students, the universities and the State.

I have submitted a research brief on the first year of the program ([Exhibit D](#)).

FEDERICO ZARAGOZA, PH.D. (President, College of Southern Nevada):

The College of Southern Nevada (CSN) has more than 35,000 degree-seeking students who attend one of our three campuses—Henderson, Las Vegas and North Las Vegas. I support S.B. 350 and the Nevada Promise Scholarship. At CSN we are already seeing its impact and believe that Nevada Promise has great potential to not only increase access to college, but also to create a higher education culture in Nevada.

Promise is much more than just financial aid; it removes financial aid challenges, provides support systems and manages transition into college, and it connects students to community mentors and role models, providing an opportunity to serve their community. In the first year, CSN Promise Scholarship students provided 43,000 hours of community service, engaged 506 mentors and worked with hundreds of community organizations.

As evidence of the impact the Promise Scholarship is having on our community, last year 150 high schools participated, including private, public and charter schools. We had more than 9,000 applications at CSN, with 1,788 of those students enrolling there. This year, we have more than 10,461 students who have already applied and 4,765 of those students are on the pipeline to become CSN students. In addition, we have seen an 85 percent Promise Scholarship retention rate from fall 2018 to spring 2019, compared to a 75 percent retention rate for the non-Promise Scholarship new student group for the same time period.

LUCAS TESTA:

I am a student at TMCC. I come from a long line of lawyers and business officials. Filling those shoes was hard to come by for me, so it was hard for me to envelop myself in school. Originally, I succumbed to major in business, like my mother. However, it did not feel right.

The Nevada Promise Scholarship became the opportunity for me, offering requirements I never thought I would do. One of the requirements was community service, and through that experience I realized I have a new love for helping people. The Scholarship helped me pay for my education independently, so now I do not have to worry about paying for another opportunity. I have been accepted for an overseas apprenticeship for a cardiology and osteopathic study in Toruń, Poland. This apprenticeship will help me immerse myself into the medical field and gain the connections so I can succeed.

The Promise Scholarship is not for everyone. It requires dedication, commitment, integrity and service. By sharing these values, this service has given me the ability to do more for my community. By maintaining college standard grade point averages (GPA) to promote academic integrity and showing compassion for our community through our service, these requirements weed out any of the uncertain and naïve students. This program is for the determined, the committed and the compassionate, and it opens the way for the

hopeful individuals so they may one day be successful. The Promise Scholarship is the perfect opportunity and for some, without it, success will never be obtained. I represent all Nevada students and our message is simple. Through academics, we commit; through service, we serve and through passion, we share.

Ms. ABBA:

There are seven main points in S.B. No. 391 of the 79th Session that were changed to make S.B. 350. We have learned that with a program of this scope, when it comes to statute, less is more. There were a number of challenges, many stemming from the restrictive deadlines where there was conflicting language. During implementation, we did our best to coordinate the community colleges.

One of the most significant improvements in S.B. 350 is that it changes the administration of the program from individual community colleges to the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Board of Regents, ensuring uniform implementation across the institutions. Did we have uniform implementation in the first year? We did, because we crafted a Memorandum of Agreement between the participating community colleges, providing a framework for all the institutions to work within that first year. This helped ensure that provisions were consistently interpreted. However, when you transfer the administration to the Board of Regents, we will draft detailed policies and procedures that will ensure this program is uniformly implemented.

In addition to other criteria that fall under the administration of the program being transferred to the Board of Regents, the bill clearly states that the regulations the Board shall adopt would concern deadlines, training and mentoring. There was one critical provision in here concerning an appeals process. In the current statute, S.B. No. 391 of the 79th Session, there is language that provides for an overarching appeal. However, this gives authority to the Board of Regents and puts a framework around that.

The second key change in S.B. 350 is in regard to eligibility. Currently, recipients who received funds are eligible to renew a Scholarship. However, if a student was not a recipient but had a change in circumstances the second year where they could have become eligible for the Scholarship, they could not receive funds. Senator Hammond referred to some of that language in his question about NRS 396.9675.

We also clarified the meaning of general equivalency diploma or equivalent. There was confusion for homeschooled students, so we changed the language to say that a student who is homeschooled has to show he or she can pass certain equivalencies, such as the General Education Diploma (GED), the High School Equivalency Test (HiSET) or the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC). There was an age restriction where an applicant under the age of 20 had to have graduated from a Nevada high school. In that context, the age limitation was removed, but there is a 20-year age limit with respect to earning those equivalency documents by taking the GED, HiSET or TASC tests. You cannot get your GED when you are 21.

The GPA requirement for maintaining eligibility is an area where the Board would craft regulations. Currently, the recipients have to maintain a 2.5 GPA or adequate academic progress. We struggled with that because there was no definition in the legislation of "adequate academic progress" because it is not a standard term. We use the federal term, which is "satisfactory academic progress", changing that in the bill to make it consistent with the Silver State Opportunity Grant and federal aid language.

Another change in S.B. 350 pertains to a leave of absence for students in certain circumstances. For example, currently the Millennium Scholarship, students have six years to use it. These provisions were in the original bill, S.B. No. 391 of the 79th Session, and reading the testimony on that bill, I cannot figure out why it was removed before the bill was enacted. We are asking to put this language back in, limiting students for the first three years after graduation. We believe there are reasonable circumstances for exceptions, including illness or a serious medical problem, active duty military, going on a religious mission or extreme financial hardship. We also added language for any other extraordinary circumstances.

We added a definition for registration and other mandatory fees. This is critical for the calculation of the monetary award and it was not in the first bill. We modeled the change after what was done in Tennessee where the total amount is based on registration and other mandatory fees. Those mandatory fees are defined as all fees that students pay. For example, at our community colleges we have a per-credit technology fee that pays for internet and other support services related to technology and that fee would be included.

In the original bill, the term "school year" was used, and it is a K-12 term not a higher education term, so we changed that to "academic year", which is clearly defined as spring and fall.

In awarding the Scholarship, there is language in S.B. No. 391 of the 79th Session directing the Board of Regents to work with the Office of the State Treasurer if we ran out of money. But we felt that since it would be our students, the Board of Regents should be able to make a determination if the money ran out. There was language in the bill that stated you may consider awarding on a first-come, first-served basis, or maybe all students would get a little something. This was not an issue in the first year, but we want to ensure that as we make a promise, we can fulfill it.

Finally, we wanted to ensure that we have appropriate reporting procedures. The new language in S.B. 350 revises some of the reporting requirements, removing the directive that the community colleges maintain certain records. The reason that is removed is because we currently have Board policies that follow State archive laws for keeping of records, so there is nothing to preclude an institution from keeping the record as long as they want. We just want them to be consistent with the way they are keeping records for everything else. We would include that in the Board's policies that we are authorized to create under this bill.

To answer Senator Hammond's initial question, the provision in NRS 396.975 basically provides that an applicant who knowingly submits false or misleading information to a participating community college is ineligible to receive the Promise Scholarship. That language is now deleted because the bill requires that an applicant complete the FAFSA and much of the information there is linked with the federal IRS. The federal government is concerned with fraud, so they have a verification process where students are randomly selected and asked questions that may require additional information and documentation. We feel that process is strong enough that we do not need it in S.B. 350. Senator Hammond also asked if there are second chances for someone who is caught the first time and the answer is that there is no second chance the way the bill is crafted. We believe that is a reasonable expectation for giving students this Promise Scholarship.

SENATOR PICKARD:

What happens when somebody provides false information? If we decouple the prohibition, what mechanism would allow us to deny the Scholarship if they have met all the other criteria except for the false information they provided?

MS. ABBA:

Yes, deleting that language can leave the Legislature with the impression that we are decoupling those two, which is not our intent. I urge the Committee that if you feel more comfortable and want to add it back in, we can accept that as an amendment. However, if you do not add that in, I will give you my word that we would include that in the policies because I agree, we do not want to leave anyone with the impression that falsely representing information on the FAFSA or any application is appropriate.

SENATOR PICKARD:

I am comfortable with the representation that it will go into the regulations. I also do not like to see duplicate language that could create conflict if one changes and the other does not.

On page 6, line 39 of S.B. 350, we delete language that the applicant, "Is not in default on any federal student loan and does not owe a refund to any federal program to provide aid to students". We also deleted the language that this begins in their first year following graduation. It looks like someone could attend their first year without applying for this Scholarship, then apply in their second year and they may be in default or owe money back. Is there a reason we are deleting the language on defaults?

MS. ABBA:

When we looked at S.B. No. 391 of the 79th Session following its initial passage, we scratched our head about why that language was included from the standpoint of an entering student. The intent was, "right out of high school, I am coming in", so it is highly unlikely you would have any student loans. You are right that in section 10, subsection 1, it does state the first year after high school, but the intent is that the student is a bona fide resident who has a high school diploma, so those are things we need to go back and look at to ensure the intent is very clear in the regulations the Board will adopt. Because that authority was absent with the initial bill, it was a huge part of our struggle.

We had to exert a great deal of energy to bring everyone together and make sure we were communicating with some level of consistency. We have no authority to deal with those kinds of issues. From experience I know it is likely that even after this legislation is passed, something in here will come up as an issue. I look for language that gives the Board the authority to interpret, absent your specific guidance. Because there were so many moving pieces in the first bill, S.B. No. 391 of the 79th Session, that is where we had our challenges. Because of those challenges, in many cases, students were precluded from receiving the Promise Scholarship.

SENATOR PICKARD:

To review, going back to the section you referenced, we have deleted the first year requirement. That would statutorily allow anyone, as long as they are a bona fide Nevada resident, and have not been awarded a degree and they have obtained a high school diploma or equivalent, they are now statutorily eligible for this Scholarship. But we have deleted the requirement for this to start in their first year following graduation. If we were to put into the regulations the prohibition for default, have we created a loophole? Because in terms of who is eligible, we cannot be more restrictive in regulation than in statute.

MS. ABBA:

You may be correct. With your permission, I would like an opportunity to review this language in detail, particularly with your staff, to make sure the intent is clear. We are still going to limit this to recent high school graduates. However, I do not disagree with your interpretation.

VICE CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

Absolutely; I think that is very appropriate. I will take testimony from those in support of S.B. 350.

RENE CANTU, JR., PH.D. (Executive Director, Jobs for America's Graduates Nevada)

I am the Executive Director of Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) Nevada. I support S.B. 350 and have three JAG students from Western High School here who plan to attend CSN and are on track to get their Promise Scholarships.

LUIS MARTIN:

I am a senior at Western High School in CCSD. If it was not for the Promise Scholarship, I would be delayed a year or two from going to CSN. I may not

have even gone to college because I did not have much of an idea of how to pay for college. I knew about scholarships, but I have not had much luck receiving them. When I heard about the Promise Scholarship, it got me back on track to go to college right after high school. I will be majoring in business management and I will be able to afford the first two years so I can earn my associate degree from CSN and then transfer to a four-year university after that.

NADIA ALVIZO:

I am a senior JAG ambassador at Western High School. The Promise Scholarship gave me the opportunity to open my eyes and go in the direction of attending college. If it was not for the Scholarship, I probably would not be attending college this fall due to money issues. This has given me the opportunity to pay for college and do what I want to do, which is to major in physical therapy.

BRYAN RUIZ:

I am a senior at Western High School and part of the JAG program. One thing about the Promise Scholarship is that it was easy to apply for and it was well-known. I was not told of it by my counselor but by my mentor in the JAG program. When I applied, I did not have a plan for college or a backup plan after graduation, and money is a huge struggle. I was told to apply for the Scholarship and to CSN and through this, I found a way to pay for college and start a path of learning and success.

AKIRA TERRY:

I am from Elko and I attend TMCC. Although my family makes too much money to be considered financially eligible for some financial aid, paying for college was something my family was having trouble with. The Nevada Promise has not only allowed me to go to college, it has opened many doors such as working on campus for the financial aid office. At TMCC, I am working on a bachelor's degree in Emergency Management and Homeland Security. The Scholarship also helped me familiarize myself with the Reno community through community service. Coming from Elko, I was not aware that Reno had so many awesome opportunities for volunteering like the Nevada Humane Society and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, so it helped me with that. The Promise Scholarship also gives any student who is willing to put in the work a chance to secure their future without the burden of student loans.



VICTORIA WRIGHT-FORSLUND:

I am a recipient of the Promise Scholarship and a student at TMCC. I have additional scholarships, but the Promise is the one I am most thankful for. Without it, I would have no way to pay for college. My mother makes too much money for me to receive FAFSA aid, but she cannot in any way afford to pay for my college on top of taking care of three kids at home. This Scholarship is not awarded to just anyone. It is awarded to students who do not have any financial aid options and who are willing to take on extra responsibility and continually work to maintain their eligibility. If I was not aware of resources provided at TMCC, thanks to Promise, I would be so lost and off course. It has shown me that there is help available to guide us to where we need to go and what we need to do to succeed. I am thankful for this opportunity and for the motivation to be a great student. No one in my family has had this opportunity.

BRANDON PASTORIUS:

The Nevada Promise Scholarship is a program that opens the door for opportunity for students like me. Neither of my parents attended college or have a stable job. My father is a slot tech and my mom is a waitress. This Scholarship gives me an opportunity. My parents cannot afford college for me. I live far from town and it is hard for me to get an occupation. This Scholarship opens up an opportunity for people who come from a low-income background. I could not imagine what someone feels like having parents who do not have stable housing, and this Scholarship is a foundation and it lets people begin a generation of new students who will eventually encourage their children to go to college. It creates college in places where college could not have been imagined decades ago. I appreciate the opportunity.

JAZMIN VILLAGOMEZ:

I support S.B. 350 on behalf of Mi Familia Vota and as a member of the Nevada Immigration Coalition. As a minority student attending CSN, I urge the Committee to support this bill as it provides opportunity and support to other students like me to navigate and afford an education. With this Promise Scholarship, more low-income and minority students have the opportunity to better their lives, and students across Nevada get the chance to pursue higher education.

EDGAR PATINO (Vice Chair, Government Affairs and Finance, Latin Chamber of Commerce):

We support S.B. 350 because the Nevada Promise Scholarship Program is having a positive impact on the business community. It increases access to education, allowing students to receive a high-quality education, allowing them to contribute to the economy with good paying jobs that ultimately change their lives. At the Latin Chamber, we hear from our members that the program is bringing value to the business community as a whole. For example, my employer is a participant and I have helped recruit 60 mentors. Nearly every other week, an employee will approach me and tell me how successful their experience was with the students and how they feel they are making an impact.

I sit on the CSN Foundation Board, and we received updates and heard positive things about the Promise Scholarship Program. We support the program and feel it has an impact on the very students the Foundation supports.

SYLVIA LAZOS (Co-Leader, Nevada Immigration Coalition):

The Nevada Immigration Coalition supports S.B. 350. As much as 46 percent of students in the U.S. go to a community college because of economics or high school grades that were not good enough. According to 2010 data, in Nevada 68 percent of Latino and Native American students and 63 percent of African American students go to community college and not to a 4-year university. We urge the Committee to consider our amendments that would ensure all Nevada students have access to the Promise Scholarship.

A very important case, *Plyler v. Doe*, 457 U.S. 202 (1982), decided by the Supreme Court of the United States almost 40 years ago directed that when children come to this Country, they should not be responsible for the choices their parents make. If we do that, we will create an underclass and a caste society forever. These children want access to a higher education and the Promise Scholarship is the only financial means available. Imagine if Steve Jobs, who was the biological son of a Syrian immigrant, had been a Dreamer and had not been adopted by U.S. parents.

It is important we take advantage of all talent in America and Nevada and make sure these children are able to pursue the opportunities available for higher education. We have suggested four simple words to add to the bill and we hope the Committee will take it into consideration. I have submitted my letter of support for S.B. 350 ([Exhibit E](#)).

KENT M. ERVIN, PH.D. (Nevada Faculty Alliance):

We support student success by allowing faculty to fully engage with students, including as Promise Scholarship mentors. We appreciate S.B. 350 for streamlining and clarifying the process. We support all means to increase student access to support. We hear from students whose primary identity is that they are cash poor and it defines their daily existence. Any unnecessary hurdles causing a student to drop out of one of their scholarships or grant programs can cause those students to drop out of school entirely. We support S.B. 350 and its promises. We also support the next bill, S.B. 255.

[SENATE BILL 255](#): Revises provisions relating to education. (BDR 34-790)

TAYLOR FURR:

I am a first generation college student at Western Nevada College (WNC) in Carson City. The Promise Scholarship has helped me attend college without debt. Without it, I would not be in college. My parents do not believe in attending college, so I have to provide funding on my own. The Scholarship has allowed me to go to college and realize that becoming an elementary school teacher in Nevada is what I want to do with my life. For that I am very grateful.

MARIA MARINCH (Executive Director, Inclusive Learning and Engagement, College of Southern Nevada):

I support S.B. 350. As a member of the implementing team of the Promise Scholarship at CSN, I have seen the positive impact it has had on the lives of students, families and the community. This program is changing lives. I have submitted my written testimony ([Exhibit F](#)).

SAM LIEBERMAN (Regent, Nevada System of Higher Education):

The core purpose of higher education is to educate students, to graduate students and keep them involved in our workforce in this community Statewide and ultimately to have them raise their families here. We appreciate the partnership with the Legislature in moving S.B. 350 and the Promise Scholarship forward for generations to come.

LEONARDO BENAVIDAS (Clark County School District):

The Clark County School District (CCSD) is a committed partner to the Promise Scholarship. Expanding it to encourage college participation for our diverse student population is a part of our supplemental legislative platform as approved by the CCSD Board of Trustees. The changes in S.B. 350 allow more of our

graduating students to become eligible for the Promise Scholarship, which removes financial barriers for many of our students who have traditionally been denied access to higher education. Through initiatives such as our 5-year strategic plan, Focus 2024 and our recent Memorandum of Understanding with NSHE, CCSD wants to ensure students have access to college-and-career-ready programs. I participated in the process as a mentor and look forward to participating again in the future.

NATALIE CALDERON:

I am the daughter of immigrants. I had assumed that higher education was not an option, since my parents do not have the funds to put me through college. I heard about the Promise Scholarship at school from my Spanish teacher and I knew it was my gateway to higher education. I support S.B. 350. I have submitted my written testimony ([Exhibit G](#)).

AURORA DE LA TORRE:

I am first generation Latina at WNC; the first to go to college in my family. Both my parents were born and raised in Mexico, coming to the U.S. very young. As the oldest in my family, I am trying to be a good role model for my brothers. My parents live paycheck to paycheck. The Nevada Promise Scholarship has helped me get the funds I need to go to college and to become more independent and gain confidence in the process. If it was not for this Scholarship, I probably would not have been able to go to college. I work at WNC as a receptionist for the Latino Cohort while I am in school and I am thankful for that job. I have been able to find other scholarship opportunities through that work and I share with other students how Nevada Promise has helped me. I am working on my Associate of Business degree. I support S.B. 350.

GUSTAVO ANTONIO RICO:

I am Latino and a first generation college student at CSN. On my journey as a student, I have had the wonderful opportunity to be a facilitator for the Nevada Promise Scholarship, where I have been a witness to the diligent, passionate, hard-working students who are willing to perform when you give them the promise of an education. I support S.B. 350 because we are not done. Our applicants are graduating and our recipients are returning. We need to keep our promise.

MARIA NIETO:

I am here on behalf of Mi Familia Vota and the Nevada Immigration Coalition (NIC). I am a current undocumented student at CSN. The NIC supports S.B. 350, because motivated students who aspire to go to college should not be derailed because their finances come up short or because of their immigration status. Nevada should invest in State financial aid for community college students because investing a bit of money in them today will help them graduate tomorrow to return those investments into Nevada's workforce. According to national data, the vast majority of working class, and increasingly middle class students, opt for community college. These schools are pretty much the only shot at a higher education for those who do not have the cash or high school records to go to a four-year university. In 2015, that population was approximately 45 percent of undergraduate students in the Country.

Nevada's minorities mostly opt for community college. In 2010, according to NSHE's Diversity Report, 68 percent of all Latinx and American Indian students and 64 percent of African American students were enrolled in community colleges. Promise Scholarships support students and their aspirations to seek college degrees. This is the gateway for the middle class. It is a great investment in our first generation immigrant students, working class populations, historically under-represented minorities and middle class families unable to save for their children's college education. As an immigrant student and a DACA recipient, I know firsthand how expensive college is and how challenging it is to pay for an education I believe I deserve.

WILSON HATCHER (Academic Advisor, College of Southern Nevada):

I am an academic advisor and success coach at CSN. I am a lifelong learner, engaging CSN's coursework for the last 15 years. Education holds three purposes. The first is social mobility. Obtaining a higher education degree can be a fast track to move up the social ladder. Second, developing a large, qualified workforce is good for the economy. As we diversify our industries in Nevada, we need trained workers to fill those jobs and continue to grow our State. Finally, the higher education purpose that gets overlooked is that college campuses are where leaders of the future are formed and educated. The civic engagement on those campuses is essential.

College is increasingly more expensive and more difficult to navigate. The Promise Scholarship does a lot to help with that by providing needed financial

assistance and mentorship to navigate the higher education process. I support S.B. 350.

J.W. LAZZARI (Director of Financial Aid, Western Nevada College):

The Nevada Promise program is like no other that we have had in the State. It is having a direct impact on students at WNC and in our State by helping students who would not otherwise be able to attend college. I have always been troubled by the fact that we leave out the working class or middle class who earn too much to qualify for federal aid programs or need-based programs, but still do not earn enough to be able to save for college. Nevada Promise is helping these families that are caught in the middle.

We know student borrowing for college is out of control and we need to provide programs for them so this does not continue. We have worked with Nevada community colleges to interpret the 2017 bill, S.B. No. 391 of the 79th Session. Today's bill, S.B. 350, provides us guidance and support to help clarify some of the issues we struggled with. It has been demonstrated in other programs, such as the Silver State Opportunity Grant, that central coordination and procedures rob the ability to identify and adjust critical processes and adopt regulations that are central to developing a strong and successful program. We need to remain nimble and fine tune the Promise Scholarship to meet student needs. It is essential for the Board of Regents, NSHE and the community colleges to collaborate and work together. We support S.B. 350.

CECIA ALVARADO (State Director, Mi Familia Vota):

I am the State Director for Mi Familia Vota and a member of the Nevada Immigration Coalition. I am also a product of CCSD and I support S.B. 350. As an immigrant student, I know how difficult it is for students like me to have access to higher education with little or no financial support. I am one of the first in my family to attend college. Programs like the Nevada Promise will help future generations like mine to reach their education goals. Through our investment in working and in low-income students, we will see a return investment in our workforce. Please continue to ensure that higher education is accessible to all students, regardless of their socio-economic status.

RYAN BLACK (City of Las Vegas):

We support both S.B. 350 and S.B. 255.

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DAVID DAZLICH (Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce):  
Supporting higher education in Nevada is a priority of the Chamber. We support S.B. 350.

MILES DICKSON (Chief of Staff, Office of the State Treasurer):  
The Promise Scholarship is an important piece of the college affordability and access puzzle that we have to solve here in Nevada. We support S.B. 350 because we believe it will get the Scholarship into the hands of more students and it will streamline the administration of the program.

RUBEN MURILLO, JR. (President, Nevada State Education Association):  
We support S.B. 350. Many years ago, I attended Hutchinson Community College in Kansas. Because of small scholarships and opportunities, I was the first person in my family and neighborhood to go to college. Had there been opportunities like the Nevada Promise back then, we would see a lot more students who come from families in poverty with no resources for college having successful experiences in higher education.

VICE CHAIR WOODHOUSE:  
I will take testimony from those opposed or neutral to S.B. 350.

MS. ABBA:  
To Senator Pickard's question about whether or not the intent of this bill is to expand accessibility beyond recent high school graduates, section 10 of S.B. 350 is intended for initial and continuing eligibility. I refer you to section 10, subsection 1, paragraph (c) which states the applicant has to have a recent high school diploma. However, the issue of immediately enrolling upon high school graduation is in paragraph (j) on page 8 of the bill. Paragraph (k) also states 12 credits, while paragraph (j) specifies that the 12 credits "immediately following the school year in which the student was awarded a high school diploma". Because this part of the bill is used for initial and continuing eligibility, it is confusing, but the intent is to ensure that these students enroll immediately after graduating high school to qualify for initial and continuing eligibility.

SENATOR DENIS:  
For me, any time I hear that a student who was not planning on going to college has now made a decision to go to college, I am reminded of the reason I brought this bill forward. Some kids just do not have the opportunity, but the

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Promise Scholarship has given them the chance and we need even more of them in higher education. Even kids who did not get the Promise Scholarship are still applying for college and that is a good thing.

VICE CHAIR WOODHOUSE:

We received three letters of support I want to submit from Dr. Karen Hilgerson, Thomas Middleton and Jose Rivera ([Exhibit H](#)). I will close the hearing on S.B. 350.

CHAIR DENIS:

We need to do a few more BDR introductions. The first is BDR 34-383.

**BILL DRAFT REQUEST 34-383**: Revises the eligibility requirements for the Governor Guinn Millennium Scholarship Program. (Later introduced as [Senate Bill 453](#).)

SENATOR WOODHOUSE MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR 34-383.

SENATOR PICKARD SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHAIR DENIS:

The next introduction is BDR 34-816.

**BILL DRAFT REQUEST 34-816**: Revises provisions relating to the evaluation of educational employees and makes various other changes to provisions relating to education. (Later introduced as [Senate Bill 475](#).)

SENATOR HARRIS MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR 34-816.

SENATOR WOODHOUSE SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*



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CHAIR DENIS:

The next introduction is BDR 34-819.

**BILL DRAFT REQUEST 34-819**: Establishes programs to promote education in computer science. (Later introduced as [Senate Bill 476](#).)

SENATOR WOODHOUSE MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR 34-819.

SENATOR HAMMOND SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHAIR DENIS:

Finally, we have BDR 34-391 to introduce.

**BILL DRAFT REQUEST 34-391**: Authorizes variable-length renewal of charter contracts. (Later introduced as [Senate Bill 451](#).)

SENATOR HARRIS MOVED TO INTRODUCE BDR 34-391.

SENATOR HAMMOND SECONDED THE MOTION.

THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

\* \* \* \* \*

CHAIR DENIS:

I will now open the hearing on S.B. 255.

SENATOR DALLAS HARRIS (Senatorial District No. 11):

Senate Bill 255 creates the Nevada Reconnect Scholarship Program, which would build on the Nevada Promise Scholarship Program created by this body in 2017. Promise Scholarships aim to expand access to college for Nevada residents. The idea is to cover registration and other mandatory fees at participating community colleges, so after taking into account other grants or scholarships, a student may receive a "last dollar" approach.

Among other requirements, in order to qualify for the Promise program, a student must be less than 20 years old. While Promise Scholarships are an important and praiseworthy step toward college access, this age requirement leaves many Nevadans behind. It leaves out those who are mid-career and may need vocational training in order to move forward in their jobs. It also leaves out working parents who seek to further their education and make better lives for their families.

Thus, in an effort to expand educational access even further and recognizing that the path to college is not always a straight line, S.B. 255 seeks to provide similar scholarship opportunities to all Nevadans. To be clear, the bill before you today does not make any changes to the existing Promise Scholarship Program. What it does is create a similar program for all adults, not just Nevadans under the age of 20.

As with the Promise program, the idea is to cover registration and mandatory fees at participating community colleges using a “last dollar” approach. In other words, the Reconnect Scholarship would cover the amount that is not already covered by other student aid such as federal grants, the Millennium Scholarship and the Silver State Opportunity Grant. To qualify, a student must be a Nevada resident, have a high school diploma or equivalent, have not previously earned an associate or bachelor’s degree and must perform some community service.

Renewal requirements are set out in Section 14 of S.B. 255 and include progress toward a degree, a 2.5 GPA or adequate academic progress and community service.

I would like to offer a conceptual amendment for several items in the bill related to eligibility and renewal. Many of the adult students who I hope will take advantage of this program have extraordinary demands on their time. The changes I am proposing are meant to provide the flexibility necessary to accommodate these busy students, while still making sure they have the support they need to stay on track for graduation.

In the current version of S.B. 255, you will see several references to requiring students to enroll for 3 credits per term. I would like to remove that requirement and instead put a cap on the Scholarship of 6 semesters for an associate degree and 12 semesters for a bachelor’s degree. I would also like to limit the Scholarship to students who are enrolled as degree seekers to ensure we are

not paying for people to audit courses or take classes without the intention of earning a degree.

The other change I am proposing is to remove the mentoring requirements that are currently in the bill. Instead, I would like to require Scholarship recipients to meet with a counselor before registering for their first term, and once during every semester that they receive the Scholarship.

The last amendment I propose pertains to the conforming changes that have been made to the Promise Scholarship in S.B. 350, adding those same changes to the Reconnect Scholarship Program created in S.B. 255. This would include moving the 20 community service hours down to 8 hours and some of the other conforming changes that make the Promise Scholarship Program work better. I believe S.B. 255 is a logical next step for our State and ideally, another step toward free community college for all Nevada residents.

SENATOR PICKARD:

I agree we need this bill. I lost my job during the downturn and needed to go back to college. Were you able to find out how many people we are looking at covering for the appropriation you proposed?

SENATOR HARRIS:

I believe so.

NATE MACKINNON (Vice Chancellor, Community Colleges, Nevada System of Higher Education):

Coming up with an actual estimate is nearly impossible, but the best we can do is give you a sense of knowing as a last dollar program what we covered in costs for the Nevada Promise Scholarship Program. For that Program, our total costs for 778 students who were eligible to receive funding was \$938,000 for one semester, which depended on each individual student's unmet need, which is the last dollar I just mentioned. We cannot exactly predict the need for the Reconnect Scholarship, but that gives you a sense of a population for who we recently implemented a last dollar scholarship, which was in the fall of 2018.

SENATOR PICKARD:

Since this is a last dollar approach, are we talking about potentially more scholarships being available, so the amount of those scholarships would be smaller than what we saw with the Promise Scholarship?

MR. MACKINNON:

I do not know. It depends on each individual's expected family contribution from the federal government regarding what they would receive in financial aid versus the number of credits being taken. One thing we see different with nontraditional students is that their parent's income is not relevant; it is solely their income. We are no longer looking at an expected family contribution from parents for an older student.

SENATOR PICKARD:

Regarding the amendment, where you say "meet with a counselor", are you talking about a high school counselor or college counselor?

SENATOR HARRIS:

It would not be a high school counselor since these are adults re-entering the academic world. A college counselor would be better as the main goal is to ensure that those who have not been in school for awhile are able to get on a track for success.

SENATOR PICKARD:

My next question was going to be to ask if the colleges are on board to help with counselors, but I see heads in the audience nodding, so I know the answer is yes.

SENATOR HAMMOND:

In the conceptual amendment, you mention a visit to a counselor every semester. Have you contemplated a consequence for not fulfilling that requirement? Also, if the student gets the Scholarship taken away, can he or she regain it at some point?

SENATOR HARRIS:

My understanding is that the maintenance of the Reconnect Scholarship will be handled in a similar way to the Promise Scholarship when it comes to ensuring students meet and maintain the requirements of the program. In the amendments proposed for S.B. 350, there is now an opportunity for the Board of Regents to promulgate regulations that would deal with many of these questions. I am fine with ensuring that students remain and continue to be eligible in a similar manner.

SENATOR HAMMOND:

That is why I asked, because the regulations will come. My intent is that there have to be consequences, but you also want to ensure there is a pathway for getting the Scholarship back, if possible, because circumstances arise and change and we make mistakes.

SENATOR HARRIS:

It is my intention to ride on the work of Senator Denis in more ways than one. I think he did a great job of setting up the infrastructure with S.B. 350 and it will work well for S.B. 255 as well.

CHAIR DENIS:

I appreciate the part about meeting with a counselor and I also think there is a benefit to meet with a cohort, because it is beneficial to talk to someone who has been through the process.

SENATOR HARRIS:

That is a great point. As I listened to people talking about the mentorship program for the Promise Scholarship, I thought maybe we should make it permissive in S.B. 255, so adults could participate in the mentorship program if they wish.

CHAIR DENIS:

I will take testimony in support for S.B. 255.

MR. MACKINNON:

On behalf of the four community colleges in the State—CSN, Great Basin College, TMCC and WNC—we support S.B. 255 and look forward to assisting in any way we can to ensure this mirrors the changes in the Nevada Promise legislation which will allow it to be implemented in a similar way. We know the students this bill will benefit are nontraditional students doing their best later in life while raising families and possibly working full-time. We are excited about the opportunity this presents. Tennessee and other states have recently launched similar initiatives as a next step beyond the initial Promise Scholarship, geared to recent high school graduates, so we can retrain the upward mobility of our existing workforce.

MICHELLE KIM (Clark County Education Association):

We support S.B. 255 because it not only supports those adults who graduated from high school in the past; it serves the adult education student population at CCSD. The adult education program at CCSD serves adults and youth who are out of school at the age of 17 and older. Many educators teach adult education in the evenings. Many of the students in these classes are out of school for a variety of reasons, including poverty or unstable living situations. Their commitment to go back to school and complete their education should be supported. This bill provides a lifeline to those students, as well as an opportunity to obtain a college degree. We believe the counseling offered in the program is very important.

MR. DICKSON:

We support S.B. 255 and we are excited about strengthening the pathways to college, especially for nontraditional students.

MR. CANTU:

We support S.B. 255. Thirty-one percent of Nevada's adult population between the ages of 25 and 64 have an associate degree, which is lower than the national average of 35 percent. This is troubling, given that by 2020, almost half of the jobs in Nevada will require a post-secondary degree or certificate for middle skill jobs. The Promise Scholarship has helped many students and now the Reconnect Scholarship will help their parents, many of whom do not have higher education degrees. This bill, S.B. 255, is an important second generation anti-poverty strategy which will enable some of our most vulnerable families to take advantage of middle skill jobs.

NANCY BRUNE (Director, Kenny Guinn Center for Policy Priorities):

The Guinn Center published a report in 2017 that examined Promise-type scholarship programs around the Country. On the basis of that research, we support S.B. 255. We agree this is an important second-generation poverty reduction strategy.

We offer two friendly suggestions. First, increase the credit requirement from three credit hours to at least six credit hours. The Tennessee Reconnect Scholarship Program has a floor of six credit hours. Second, reduce the number of community service hours required. We learned from Tennessee that many adult students have full-time jobs and families, so the community service requirement might be burdensome and not allow the recipients to succeed.

MR. DAZLICH:

We at the Las Vegas Metro Chamber support S.B. 255 for ongoing workforce education. During the recession, we saw that for a number of people, education training was necessary for unemployed or underemployed people to re-enter the workforce full-time.

MR. LAZZARI:

It is not necessarily about the funding tied to this bill; it is about getting students into the pipeline. The Scholarship is the carrot that gets students meeting with counselors, applying for financial aid and working through the steps toward higher education. The students are often eligible for other federal aid programs that they never considered as available to them. We support S.B. 255, because it is an access program and a way to help get our population in the door of higher education. How we fund them is the benefit they get by working the program.

SENATOR HARRIS:

If Nevada wants to stay in the forefront of being business friendly and attract a diverse economy, we have to send a lot of our adults back to school so we can change with the times. This bill is designed to make that a possibility. The high school to college pipeline is essential, and while we are shoring that up, we can simultaneously do a lot for our residents and our economy by ensuring we are sending back to school those who missed that opportunity.

CHAIR DENIS:

In the Promise Scholarship, we have the ability to get corporate sponsorships or donations. Is that option in your bill, S.B. 255?

SENATOR HARRIS:

Yes, it is.

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CHAIR DENIS:

I will close the hearing on S.B. 255 and open public comment. Seeing no one, I will close the meeting of the Senate Committee on Education at 3:07 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

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Linda Hiller,  
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Senator Moises Denis, Chair

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



<b>EXHIBIT SUMMARY</b>				
<b>Bill</b>	<b>Exhibit / # of pages</b>		<b>Witness / Entity</b>	<b>Description</b>
	A	1		Agenda
	B	9		Attendance Roster
S.B. 350	C	10	E. Lee Bernick / University of Nevada, Las Vegas	Presentation – Nevada Promise Scholarship
S.B. 350	D	2	E. Lee Bernick / University of Nevada, Las Vegas	Research Brief
S.B. 350	E	2	Sylvia Lazos / Nevada Immigration Coalition	Written Testimony
S.B. 350	F	1	Maria Marinch / College of Southern Nevada	Written Testimony
S.B. 350	G	1	Natalie Calderon	Written Testimony
S.B. 350	H	3	Senator Joyce Woodhouse	Letters of Support