

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS**

**Eightieth Session
May 13, 2019**

The Senate Committee on Government Affairs was called to order by Chair David R. Parks at 1:07 p.m. on Monday, May 13, 2019, in Room 2149 of the Legislative Building, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4412 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 David R. Parks, Chair
Senator Melanie Scheible, Vice Chair
Senator James Ohrenschall
Senator Ben Kieckhefer
Senator Pete Goicoechea

GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:

Senator Moises Denis, Senatorial District No. 2
Assemblywoman Dina Neal, Assembly District No. 7

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jennifer Ruedy, Committee Policy Analyst
Heidi Chlarson, Committee Counsel
Becky Archer, Committee Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT:

Francisco Morales, Director, Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of the Governor
Paloma Guerrero, Legislative Policy Extern, Office of the Governor
Christine Saunders, Policy Director, Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
Ariel Guerara, Mi Familia Vota
Jose Rivera, Nevada Hispanic Legislative Caucus
Michael Alonso, Caesars Entertainment

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Kyle Dalpe, Nevada System of Higher Education
Shane Piccinini, Human Services Network of Northern Nevada
Bailey Bortolin, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada; Washoe Legal Services;
Volunteer Attorneys of Rural Nevada
Ashley Garcia, Make the Road Nevada
Maria Teresa Liebermann, Deputy Director, Battle Born Progress
Katie Ryan, Director, Public Policy and Advocacy, Dignity Health-St. Rose
Dominican
Erika Castro, Organizing Manager, Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada;
Lead, Nevada Immigrant Coalition
Sylvia Lazos, Nevada Immigrant Coalition
Bethany Khan, Culinary Workers Union 226
Yessenia Vasquez, Service Employees International Union 1107
Elisa Cafferata, Planned Parenthood Votes Nevada
Jared Busker, Children's Advocacy Alliance
Izzy Youngs, Nevada Women's Lobby
Laura Hale, Indivisible Northern Nevada
Delen Goldberg, City of North Las Vegas
Astrid Silva, Dream Big Nevada
Vinny Spotleson, District Director, Office of U.S. Representative Dina Titus
Michael Kagan, Director, Immigration Clinic, William S. Boyd School of Law,
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Courtnei Vo, Asian Community Development Council
Fernando Romero, President, Hispanics in Politics
Peter Guzman, President, Latin Chamber of Commerce
Cecia Alvarado
Mayra Salinas-Menjivar
Lynn Chapman, American Legion Auxiliary
Maureen Morris
Janine Hansen, Nevada Families for Freedom
Mary Porter
Bob Russo
Julie Moore
Linda Buckardt, NevadansCAN
Patricia (Trish) Messinger
Gabrielle Clark
Linda Cannon, NevadansCAN
Mary Rooney
Julie Hereford, NevadansCAN

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Deborah Cutshaw
Barbara Jones
Cyrus Hojjaty
Jim Verrees

Kevin Doty, Acting Administrator, Purchasing Division, Department of
Administration

Mike Cathcart, City of Henderson

Dave Dazlich, Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce

Chaunsey Chau-Duong, Southern Nevada Water Authority

Brittany Walker, Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada

Bryan Wachter, Senior Vice President, Retail Association of Nevada

CHAIR PARKS:

We will open the hearing on Senate Bill (S.B.) 538.

SENATE BILL 538: Revises provisions relating to the provision of information
and services to immigrants in this State. (BDR 18-1222)

SENATOR MOISES DENIS (Senatorial District No. 2):

Senate Bill 538 creates the Office for New Americans (ONA) in the Office of the
Governor. I applauded Governor Steve Sisolak when he confirmed his
commitment to creating this Office in his State of the State Address in January.

I am the son of immigrants from Cuba as Chair Parks is the son of immigrants
from Canada. Many in this room and in Las Vegas may have been born in the
United States. This Country's diversity has propelled us to be an economic
leader among nations.

When my parents came to the United States in the early 1950s, my father had
a degree from the University of Havana, yet the only work he could find was
painting pianos or working as a waiter. My father could not use the skills he had
attained through his degree. While there may have been assistance for my
father and others like him, it is difficult for immigrants to know where to find
help.

I have met many taxi drivers who were engineers, lawyers, doctors and
teachers in the country they left. These immigrants have the skills the State
needs, yet it is difficult for immigrants to obtain the requisite credentials when
they come to Nevada to make a new life. As a result, many immigrants must

work low-skilled jobs, letting their academic credentials and potential be wasted.

So where does this bill come from? For many years, I have served on the National Council of State Legislatures (NCSL) Task Force on Immigration and the States. I have served as the cochair of the Task Force since 2015. This Task Force was created in early 2006 to craft policy statements to guide NCSL's lobbying efforts with the federal government related to immigration. Serving on this Task Force has given me the opportunity to conduct an in-depth look at immigration policy and programs at the federal and state levels. With the Task Force, we visited the borders and met with representatives from the federal government in Washington, D.C., to talk about the many obstacles facing immigrants and policy options to help them thrive in our Country.

In 2017, I introduced S.B. No. 186 of the 79th Session to create the Office for New Americans in Nevada. This bill was modeled after the Michigan Office for New Americans which was created by Executive Order 2014-2 issued by then-Governor Rick Snyder of Michigan in 2014. Since then, the Michigan Office for New Americans has partnered with many existing nonprofits, community foundations and private sector services to provide support to immigrants and refugees. New York and Ohio have also created statewide offices for New Americans. Other states such as Minnesota and Washington have offices dedicated specifically to refugee assistance.

My intent is for the Office for New Americans to provide assistance to both documented and undocumented immigrants who find their way to Nevada. Both statuses need our assistance to maximize their productivity in our community.

According to the American Immigration Council, nearly one in five Nevada residents is an immigrant, while almost one in six residents is a native-born U.S. citizen with at least one immigrant parent. In 2015, nearly 20 percent of Nevada's population, or 558,170 people, were immigrants. The same data found that nearly one-fifth of adult immigrants in Nevada had a college degree or more of education. Nevada needs to help get these people back to work as quickly as possible in the occupations for which they were educated and trained to sustain the economic diversification the State has enjoyed in recent years.

Senate Bill 538 creates the Office for New Americans in the Office of the Governor and requires the Governor to appoint a Director of the Office. The Director is required to advise the Governor and each State agency on all matters relating to the formulation and implementation of policies, programs and procedures affecting immigrants in this State. The Director shall ensure that the Office for New Americans performs certain duties as set forth in section 4 of the bill.

Each agency, board, commission, department, officer, employee or agent of this State or a political subdivision of this State is required, under certain circumstances, to provide assistance to the Office. Finally, a regulatory body is required to create an online resource for immigrants to provide information on how to obtain a license to practice each occupation or profession which the regulatory body regulates.

I am pleased to report that this bill, unlike my bill in 2017, is a budget implementation bill, which means that the 2018–2019 Governor's Executive Budget includes funding of \$186,000 in fiscal year (FY) 2020 and \$207,000 in FY 2021 to create the Office for New Americans to help new and aspiring Americans participate fully in civic and economic life and strengthen Nevada's welcoming environment. While this hearing is before a policy committee, I will mention it is found in Budget Account 101-1007.

Thank you for your consideration of this measure.

FRANCISCO MORALES (Director, Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of the Governor)

I thank Senator Moises Denis for his hard work and insight on this issue. Our presentation ([Exhibit C](#)) provides a picture of immigration in Nevada, the three major functions of this bill and an overview of the bill language. A summary of this presentation is provided ([Exhibit D](#)).

The intent of the Governor's Office for New Americans is to empower immigrants and refugees to ascend the economic ladder by breaking down bureaucratic barriers that often hinder the immigrants' and refugees' self-sufficiency. The ONA will focus on economic and civic integration and will bridge State government and the complex changes in immigration law and policies that affect Nevadans. The ONA will listen directly to impacted

immigrant communities, advocates and nonprofits with the goal of identifying service gaps and eliminating redundancy. The ONA will act as an information clearinghouse, not only for constituents but for State agencies that must navigate constant changes in immigration policy.

The term “immigrant” in the bill refers to anyone born outside the Country to non-U.S. citizen parents, regardless of their immigration status. I will use myself as an example to help clarify this point. I was born in a small indigenous community in Mexico. I came to the United States when I was eight years old. In 2011, I obtained my employment authorization card. In 2012, I obtained my legal permanent residence or green card. Five years later, in 2017, I was able to fulfill one of my biggest dreams when I became a naturalized U.S. citizen—but I am still an immigrant. Almost half of all immigrants are naturalized citizens. Other immigrants are green card holders, temporary protected status (TPS) recipients, asylees, refugees and yes, some are undocumented. Immigration status fluctuates, and people go through different statuses throughout their immigrant journey in this Country, just like I did.

This Office will serve all Nevadans, regardless of legal status.

In recent years, Nevada has emerged as a popular destination for immigrants, growing from 9 percent of our State's population in 1990 to 21 percent of our population today. More than 637,000 immigrants call the Silver State their home.

Almost two out of every five children in Nevada schools have an immigrant parent at home. The better chance at success an immigrant parent has, the better opportunities their children will get.

Immigrants are not just population numbers but an important part of our State's economy and workforce. One-fourth of our State's workforce are foreign-born immigrants.

Immigrants account for 71 percent of guest room attendants and housekeeping cleaners, 54 percent of chefs and cooks, 58 percent of grounds maintenance workers, 49 percent of gaming services workers and 51 percent of janitors and building cleaners.

Nevada's largest immigrant organization, the Culinary Workers Union Local 226, represents 60,000 workers who come from 178 countries and speak over 40 different languages. These workers are on the frontlines of our thriving tourism industry, working as guest room attendants, cocktail and food servers, bartenders, porters, bellmen, cooks and kitchen workers. Without these dedicated workers, Nevada's tourism industry would not be able to provide its world-class hospitality and world-renowned cuisine.

Immigrant-led households in Nevada paid nearly \$3 billion in federal taxes and \$900 million in State and local taxes. Nevada residents in immigrant-led households have a combined \$13.1 billion spending power.

The economy's future across the U.S. is science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), and it is no different in Nevada. Immigrants are already ensuring Nevada remains a leading innovator in this field. Roughly, 1 out of every 5 students earning a STEM master's degree at Nevada's universities and 32.6 percent of students earning a doctorate degree in STEM are here on a temporary or student visa.

A study by the Partnership for a New American Economy and the American Enterprise Institute found that every time a state gains 100 foreign-born STEM workers with graduate-level STEM training from a U.S. school, 262 more jobs are created for U.S.-born workers in the following 7 years.

In Nevada, almost one out of every seven residents is elderly. Finding enough healthcare workers in Nevada remains a challenge.

Immigrants are already playing an important role helping Nevada meet its healthcare workforce gaps. In 2016, nearly one in three physicians in Nevada graduated from a foreign medical school, a likely sign they were born elsewhere. In 2014, immigrant healthcare practitioners made up 28 percent of the State's nurses with 26 percent of those working as nursing, psychiatric or home health aides.

The University of Nevada, Reno, School of Medicine struggled for three years to fill a job opening for a pediatric gastroenterologist. In 2015, the University hired Dr. Rabea Alhosh who had just finished training at the Children's Hospital Los Angeles. Dr. Alhosh is a brilliant doctor and an immigrant from Syria.

Not only does welcoming immigrants make sense for our economic and social success, but it is the right thing to do.

Twenty-one percent of Nevada's population are immigrants who call Nevada their home. Immigrants have made Nevada dynamic from the beginning of our State's history. The State must be equally energetic in addressing the challenges facing our immigrant residents today. Governor Steve Sisolak recognizes that immigrants are our neighbors, friends, family, peers, coworkers, community and our Legislators. The Governor's Office recognizes that immigrants are Nevadans.

The Office for New Americans will help new and aspiring Americans participate fully in economic and civic life by cultivating the entrepreneurial propensities of our immigrant communities, while promoting Nevada as a State that values diversity.

PALOMA GUERRERO (Legislative Policy Extern, Office of the Governor)

In 2003, the United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit noted that immigration law is a "maze of hyper-technical statutes and regulations that engender waste, delay, and confusion for the Government and petitioners alike."

It is not just the complexities of immigration law that are frustrating and hard to navigate, but immigration law is constantly changing. Any changes that occur can have drastic consequences in the lives of Nevadans.

A person does not need to look too far into the past to see changes. The federal government changed immigration policies drastically in the past two years. The government removed protections for TPS holders from various countries like Haiti, El Salvador and Nicaragua. The government also ended the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

More than 12,000 DACA recipients and more than 4,000 TPS holders' lives in Nevada were drastically changed from these changes.

State agencies have important jobs to perform. The Governor's Office is here to support the agencies to allow them to serve Nevadans effectively.

Immigration status fluctuates. For Nevadans who are in transition or between statuses, the process can be frustrating to get a driver's license or acquire occupational licenses. To put it into perspective, there are 185 different classifications of visas, each one being unique with different rules that apply.

Governor Sisolak does not expect every employee of each State agency to be an expert on immigration law, which is why the State needs the Office for New Americans. The ONA will act as a clearinghouse, not only for constituents but for State agencies as well.

The Office for New Americans will engage in community outreach and advocacy. The ONA will listen to directly impacted immigrant communities, advocates, nonprofit and private sector entities, and service providers. Only then will the Office know how to best assist the immigrant and refugees in our State. The ONA will engage in State and federal advocacy with information gathered through these contacts. This aspect of the Office is about being on the ground, listening to impacted communities and uplifting their voices to levels of government where change can be implemented.

Many organizations do incredible work with immigrant services. We would like to acknowledge the Ethiopian Community Center; the Immigrant Workers Citizenship Project; the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), Immigration Clinic at the William S. Boyd School of Law; The Immigrant Home Foundation; Dream Big Nevada; and Catholic Charities, to name a few.

Through this Office, Nevadans will be aware of services already provided, and the community organizations can learn of duplicated services or what service gaps still need to be filled.

The Office for New Americans will play a role in economic development. Economic integration empowers new and aspiring Americans and allows them to contribute to the State's economic growth.

The ONA will work with the various occupational licensing boards to provide online licensing guides to break down the barriers people have acquiring occupational licenses. The guides will be designed to help all Nevadans, immigrant and nonimmigrant, better understand the licensing process and promote Nevada as a preferred destination for skilled immigrants. Often, people just need direction, and the Office will make that connection for them.

Immigrants start businesses at higher rates than the overall U.S. population, which plays an important role with job growth.

According to the New American Economy, 32,198 immigrant business owners accounted for 25 percent of all self-employed Nevada residents in 2015 and generated \$556 million in business income revenue.

MGM Resorts International and Caesars Entertainment Corporation both have at least one founder who either immigrated to the U.S. or was the child of immigrants.

Visiting immigrants are a significant part of our tourism industry. According to the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, in 2017, close to 6 million international visitors came to Nevada. The number of international tourists has increased steadily by more than 1.4 million since 2008. While international tourists are only in the State temporarily, their economic contributions leave a long-term benefit in Nevada.

The Office for New Americans will help market Nevada's welcoming of visitors and their economic spending. The success of our State is rooted in its ongoing commitment to welcoming and integrating new, aspiring and visiting immigrants into the fabric of our State.

We will discuss the language of the bill. Section 1 amends chapter 223 of *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) to add sections 2 through 5 of this bill.

Section 2 clarifies that "state agency" as used in this act means every public agency, bureau, board, commission, department or division of the Executive Department of the State Government.

Section 3 creates the Office for New Americans within the Office of the Governor. This section designates the Governor to appoint a Director for the Office. This section authorizes the Director to adopt regulations and allows the Director to apply for grants and accept gifts, grants and donations on behalf of the Office.

Section 4, subsection 1 states the Director will ensure the Office serves as the coordinating office for each State agency that provides services to immigrants, including programs relating to professional licensing, registration, permitting or

similar types of authorization issued by a regulatory body; connecting immigrants to entrepreneurial and other business resources and workforce development training and programs; and assisting immigrants in areas relating to quality of life, such as housing, education and health care.

Section 4, subsection 2 states the Office will review and analyze policies and programs of State agencies relating to immigrants and make recommendations to the Governor on such policies and programs.

Section 4, subsection 3 states the Office will serve as a clearinghouse for information.

Section 4, subsection 4 states the Office will engage in State and federal advocacy.

Section 4, subsection 5 states the Office will develop sustainable partnerships with community foundations and other nonprofit and private sector entities which serve immigrant communities in Nevada.

Section 4, subsection 6 states the Office will coordinate with refugee resettlement agencies in order to identify gaps in State programs. State agencies will assist in efforts to resettle, integrate and assimilate refugees in Nevada.

Section 5 states each agency, board, commission, department, officer, employee or agent of this State or political subdivision shall provide the ONA assistance required by the ONA as long as the assistance is within the scope of duties of the person or entity.

Section 6 adds a new section to chapter 622 of NRS to require each regulatory body to create an online resource which provides information on how to obtain a license to practice each occupation or profession which the regulatory body regulates.

Section 7 establishes the date for implementation.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Section 4, subsection 4 charges the office with engaging in State and federal advocacy and making recommendations concerning law and policy affecting

immigrants to advance economic and population growth in the State. What is the Office advocating for with population growth? I do not remember any other policy including that terminology.

MR. MORALES:

The intent is, more or less, to make sure the Director is advising the Governor on ways the State can better integrate immigrants as population grows. For example, the services and policies which will make the transition easier with immigration growth. We can clean up that language. I understand your concern.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

The intent is not in line with the language. It would be helpful to clarify the language in that section.

Section 6 deals with the online resource. Ms. Guerrero mentioned this will be an online resource for not just immigrants but anyone who wants to obtain a license in this State. Should that language be clarified as well? It could be difficult to create such a resource for immigrants broadly, depending on the license. For example, the State recognizes some other countries' medical schools but not all countries' medical schools for a physician's license. Bifurcating it by what country a person comes from could be a burdensome process. It might make more sense to lay out the steps everyone has to go through, rather than focusing on immigrants and where they might be coming from.

MR. MORALES:

That is a good point. We modeled section 6 after Michigan and Ohio that have already created this type of office. Those states created a step-by-step resource guide. Translating the NRS requirements into plain language and creating a guide with a checklist of the necessary steps for various licenses would be helpful. In speaking with the other states that have done this, they found the resource guides on obtaining an occupational license were used more often by nonimmigrants than immigrants. We see this as a benefit to the broader population.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL:

Section 4, subsection 1, paragraph (b) connects immigrants to entrepreneurial and other business resources and workforce development training and programs. Many companies in Nevada have roots in Canada, such as mining. Do

you see the Office for New Americans working with the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED) and the Office of the Lieutenant Governor in trying to attract investments from abroad?

MR. MORALES:

Absolutely. The Governor's Office receives requests to meet with the consulates of many different countries. The countries are in connection with GOED. Inevitably, the representatives from other countries ask what Nevada offers to their workers and/or families to better integrate into this State. This is an important aspect for businesses coming in to Nevada from other countries. The Office will provide an avenue to those new to Nevada who need to navigate a process such as getting a driver's license, which is simple for most but might be difficult for those immigrating to Nevada. Nevada needs an office to show the State supports outside companies and that their workers and families will not be alone. This Office will play a role in that regard.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL:

I am first-generation American on my mother's side. My mother is a naturalized U.S. citizen who was born in Greece. My grandmother decided she loved America and wanted to come to this Country when my mother was eight months old. I appreciate what you are doing with this bill.

CHRISTINE SAUNDERS (Policy Director, Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada): We support S.B. 538. Almost 12 million immigrants were processed through the immigration inspection station on Ellis Island between 1892 and 1954 when the station closed. It is estimated that 40 percent of Americans today can trace their ancestors back to Ellis Island, from immigrants who came to the United States in search of the American dream.

History tells us that new Americans' potential or future is not determined by their level of education, wealth or language spoken at the point of entry. Refugees and immigrants carry an entrepreneurial spirit, a determination to contribute and a drive to create a better life for their families.

The Governor's Office for New Americans represents this commitment to the land of opportunity for all. The Office will connect immigrants, refugees and new Americans to other State services and programs, fostering overall integration and creating a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere in the State.

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The Office will build our shared prosperity, serving as a clearinghouse for information and resources which invest in and cultivate new Americans' creativity, safety and entrepreneurship.

This Office is important to me as an immigrant. My family moved to the United States in the early 1990s from Sweden. I can only imagine how an office like this could have helped my father as he navigated work as a green card holder.

I urge you to support S.B. 538.

ARIEL GUERARA (Mi Familia Vota):
I am reading testimony in support ([Exhibit E](#)).

JOSE RIVERA (Nevada Hispanic Legislative Caucus):
We support S.B. 538. The Office for New Americans will coordinate resources and information for immigrants to thrive as Nevadans. It connects new Americans to work first with business development training and programs as well as assists with education, housing and health care.

It will also connect immigrants, refugees and new Americans to other State services and programs, fostering overall integration and creating a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere in the State.

In 2014, Nevada immigrant-owned businesses generated \$795.3 million in business income. Thirty percent of entrepreneurs in Nevada are immigrants and 75 percent of Nevada Fortune 500 companies were founded by the children of immigrants.

New Americans are vital contributors to our State economy. The lack of any coherent immigrant integration strategies leaves immigrants and refugee communities vulnerable to fraud.

We commend Governor Sisolak and Senator Denis for investing in immigrant and refugee communities by championing the Office for New Americans.

I urge you to support S.B. 538.

MICHAEL ALONSO (Caesars Entertainment):

Caesars Entertainment supports S.B. 538 and agrees with the previous testimony provided by the presenters of the bill. Immigrants are an essential part of our tourism industry and economy. The economic and civil integration S.B. 538 provides will cause economic barriers to be broken down, and economic self-sufficiency will be increased.

KYLE DALPE (Nevada System of Higher Education):

Tomorrow at the Nevada State College Commencement Ceremony, Nilofar Ghyasi will graduate with a nursing degree. This is an amazing achievement. Ms. Ghyasi will graduate alongside her two daughters. The story of a family graduation is one seen on occasion and always puts a smile on people's faces. This particular story is unique because Ms. Ghyasi is a refugee from Afghanistan who enrolled at Nevada State College in 2003.

On behalf of the Nevada System of Higher Education and its four community colleges, two universities, State college and research institute, we support S.B. 538 and its intent to assist immigrants who come to our State. We thank the Governor for bringing this initiative forward.

Each respective campus works to support the importance of diversity by serving diverse local populations as well as attracting international students. The creation of this Office will assist in matters related to these populations who are potential students. Specifically, as defined in section 4, subsection 1, this Office will provide workforce development training, opportunities and pathways along with quality-of-life considerations, including education, housing and health care. The Nevada System of Higher Education and its institutions are ready to assist this Office and the individuals who will be guided through it as it relates to training and education.

SHANE PICCININI (Human Services Network of Northern Nevada):

Senate Bill 538 is the forward-thinking Nevada needs.

BAILEY BORTOLIN (Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada; Washoe Legal Services; Volunteer Attorneys of Rural Nevada):

The Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Washoe Legal Services and the Volunteer Attorneys of Rural Nevada assist immigrants who are victims of domestic violence. We often find that once we have sorted through the victim's

legal problems, the victim does not have someone to help coordinate the available community resources. We support S.B. 538.

ASHLEY GARCIA (Make the Road Nevada):

I am reading my testimony in support of S.B. 538 ([Exhibit F](#)).

MARIA TERESA LIEBERMANN (Deputy Director, Battle Born Progress):

I am representing our 20,000-plus subscribers across Nevada as well as myself. I became a new American after 17 years of struggling through the immigration process along with my mother and father, who passed before he could become a citizen. I will share my experience of going through the process.

Sometimes, it is difficult to go through any bureaucratic process, such as the DMV, even if a person has all their ducks in a row and he or she is doing things "the right way."

Multiply the difficulty of that experience by 1,000. This describes the difficulty of the immigration process and its bureaucracy. The process is difficult even if a person has all the information, speaks English and knows what he or she is doing.

For 17 years of my life, I spent hours before U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) offices—which is now U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement—helping my mother and other people who had questions. The immigrant community helped each other in the immigration office with correctly filling out forms and sharing information. Several questions surround the process because the process is not easy.

If the State does not have a legitimate place to share correct information, Nevada will continue to have people like my mother and myself who fell victim to people, lawyers and notaries who take advantage of people who do not have the right information.

I ask you to support this bill because it will help people who are trying to become new Americans.

KATIE RYAN (Director, Public Policy and Advocacy, Dignity Health-St. Rose Dominican):

I have submitted testimony in support of S.B. 538 ([Exhibit G](#)). Our entity has been working on this topic for a long time at both the State and federal levels. This bill is a fantastic approach to help immigrants gain assistance in critical areas including health care. Our entity's mission is to advocate for the poor and disenfranchised. This bill helps to achieve that end.

In honor of National Hospital Week, our entity recognizes a large number of our nearly 4,000 employees who are immigrants. To quote my friend, Lin-Manuel Miranda, "Immigrants, we get the job done."

ERIKA CASTRO (Organizing Manager, Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada; Lead, Nevada Immigrant Coalition):

Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada and Nevada Immigrant Coalition support S.B. 538. I am also speaking on behalf of myself and my family as immigrants who migrated to the U.S. over 27 years ago. We have made Nevada our home. My younger brother was born in Nevada, and we both graduated from Desert Pines High School. Our parents invested their lives to make our family happy in a Country which does not always accept our family.

Senate Bill 538 will give families like mine the feeling of belonging. Most importantly, this bill will give our communities a place to find resources which will further allow us to contribute to the State our communities call home.

Many will say this bill is not supportive of U.S. citizens. But when my mom and dad have the opportunity to succeed, that support extends to my brother who is a U.S. citizen.

Like my brother, one in five children in Nevada live with an immigrant parent. By opening doors for these families, like mine, we are investing in Nevadans across the State.

I urge you to support inclusion, community development and prosperity by supporting S.B. 538 for our immigrant, refugee and new American communities.

SYLVIA LAZOS (Nevada Immigrant Coalition):

I have submitted written testimony in support of S.B. 538 ([Exhibit H](#)).

On a personal note, I am technically an immigrant. Like former U.S. Senator John Sidney McCain III, I was born overseas to a U.S. parent. You can be an immigrant and a U.S. citizen. My mother was a legal permanent resident alien and would have benefited from an office such as this. My mother spent 20 years of her life as a teacher who could not get her occupational license and full credit for being the marvelous teacher that she was. As a result, our family always struggled economically because my mother was paid as a teacher's aide and not the professional that she was.

This Office will help many immigrants in Nevada. It will help our State's structures be more responsive to this productive community.

BETHANY KHAN (Culinary Workers Union 226):
I will read my testimony in support of S.B. 538 ([Exhibit I](#)).

YESENIA VASQUEZ (Service Employees International Union 1107):
As a union of caregivers, nurses and healthcare workers, we are also a union of immigrants. I ditto what has been said by other supporters. We support S.B. 538.

ELISA CAFFERATA (Planned Parenthood Votes Nevada):
On behalf of our patients and activists who are new Americans or on their way to becoming new Americans, we support S.B. 538.

JARED BUSKER (Children's Advocacy Alliance):
We support S.B. 538.

IZZY YOUNGS (Nevada Women's Lobby):
We support S.B. 538.

LAURA HALE (Indivisible Northern Nevada):
We have approximately 1,700 members. We support S.B. 538.

DELEN GOLDBERG (City of North Las Vegas):
The City of North Las Vegas supports S.B. 538. We thank Governor Sisolak for his vision on this bill. North Las Vegas is the largest minority-majority city in Nevada. The City of North Las Vegas is one of the most diverse cities in the Country—a fact of which the City is proud.

The goal and work of our City Council is to break down barriers to success and be an asset for our residents, both native-born and immigrants, so the residents can contribute positively to our community and State.

This bill promotes economic, workforce and small business development, entrepreneurship and opportunity, which benefits all residents of Nevada. Senate Bill 538 will add resources and additional tools for people to succeed. The bill will streamline processes and communication across the State, which is good for Nevada.

We thank Governor Sisolak for his work on this bill. We urge the Committee's support of this bill.

ASTRID SILVA (Dream Big Nevada):

We support S.B. 538 and the ONA. We see how vulnerable the immigrant community is because of unverified information or information not being disseminated as it should. This problem affects every immigrant family. Misinformation will be dispelled by the actions of this State office which will help these families make correct decisions.

VINNY SPOTLESON (District Director, Office of U.S. Representative Dina Titus):

I am reading a letter in support of S.B. 538 on behalf of Congresswoman Dina Titus ([Exhibit J](#)).

MICHAEL KAGAN (Director, Immigration Clinic, William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada, Las Vegas):

Immigration status is complicated, confusing and constantly changing. We routinely see immigrants who have legal permanent residence, temporary protected status, U visa, deferred action while waiting for a U visa, refugees and asylees. Sometimes, people need an employment authorization document along with their immigration status, sometimes, they do not.

State agencies need to focus on their missions. State agencies do not have in-house immigration experts nor should the agencies be required to. By the same token, our clients and many people in the community often face unnecessary obstacles at State agencies when agency staff, in good faith, request unnecessary documents from immigrants because the staff is following either incomplete or overly complicated instructions.

Attorneys, including legal aid providers like our entity, do not have the capacity to escort their clients to every State agency for which the client might need services. Nor should State agency processes be so complicated to require an attorney for people to access routine services.

The Office for New Americans will be a welcomed addition in our community. The Office will fill a critical service and knowledge gap and prevent unnecessary inefficiencies and obstacles in people's lives. It will serve all Nevadans.

COURTNHI VO (Asian Community Development Council):

As a first-generation American immigrant and daughter of a small business owner in the State, I thank Governor Sisolak for investing in immigrant and refugee communities by creating the ONA to help immigrants and refugees find the support and assistance to succeed in Nevada.

In our work at the Asian Community Development Council (ACDC), we see the successes as well as the needs of the Asian and Pacific Islander Community (APIA) immigrant community. The ACDC provides language assistance and other resources in the fields of immigration, health care, youth education and voter engagement to the 300,000 Asian and Pacific Islander Americans. The APIA community is one of the fastest-growing groups in the State. A significant number of Asian-owned businesses exist in Nevada, and that number is rapidly increasing.

I am a testament to those small businesses supporting families. My mother's salon has served to support my family, my brother's and my education so I can attend the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law in the fall.

The economic impact of a supportive immigrant community can be far-reaching. In 2017, the buying power of the APIA community in Nevada was close to \$10 billion. The buying power is estimated to grow at a rapid rate.

For all the successes we have as foreign- and native-born immigrants, many barriers still undermine the hard work we put in. Around 33 percent of our Asian-American immigrant community, like my parents, face language barriers as limited English proficient speakers.

Language acquisition is a gateway for new Americans' full participation in our democracy, economy and communities. Language barriers keep millions of

immigrants from achieving their full potential. Senate Bill 538 will ensure these resources are available.

FERNANDO ROMERO (President, Hispanics in Politics):

Hispanics in Politics is the oldest Latino political organization in the State. Senator Denis, Mr. Morales and Ms. Guerrero were thorough in their explanation of the merits of S.B. 538. I support this bill.

PETER GUZMAN (President, Latin Chamber of Commerce):

The Latin Chamber of Commerce is 45 years old. While many will make this bill a border security or sanctuary issue, this bill is a dignity issue for the Latin Chamber of Commerce. This bill gives dignity to immigrants who are already doing an incredible job in this State, working hard for a better life.

Although this is an economic development boom for the Latin Chamber of Commerce, most importantly, it is a dignity issue. This is not a Republican or Democratic Party issue. The State needs to make it easier to integrate for hardworking immigrants to produce, continue paying taxes, be a part of society and not live in the shadows.

CECIA ALVARADO:

I am the State Director for Mi Familia Vota, but I am here testifying on behalf of myself. Eighteen years ago, I came to the U.S. as a 16-year-old immigrant to a system that did not welcome students. At 16 years old, I was held back as a freshman in high school, preventing me from later graduating with the rest of my friends. I attended school in the morning and night in order to graduate when I was 18 years old. When I turned the age of 18, the school asked me to attend an adult high school because of my age. I can provide many stories but wanted to share my experience of not feeling welcome in a community.

While many people are here testifying and uplifting our voices in support, an individual behind us is holding signs reading "stop the illegal invasion." People in our community face this type of behavior every time they visit a government office, regardless of their immigration status. We are judged by the color of our skin.

Unfortunately, just like at this hearing, no one does anything to stop that type of behavior. Security is here, but the people are still holding the signs. By not doing anything, you are welcoming this kind of behavior.

I support S.B. 538. I thank Governor Sisolak for welcoming every immigrant to Nevada.

MAYRA SALINAS-MENJIVAR:

Senate Bill 538 provides a much-needed office for the residents of Nevada. I am an attorney with the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law Immigration Clinic. I advocate for immigrant children and families in Nevada. I am here in my personal capacity.

The immigration process is complicated and can take a long time. I lived in Las Vegas for over 23 years. I was born in El Salvador but have only known one home, which is Las Vegas. I completed my education here, attending elementary school, James Cashman Middle School, Valley High School and the College of Southern Nevada. I later transferred to UNLV and received a bachelor's degree in finance. I went to law school at the William S. Boyd School of Law at UNLV.

Through all my years attending kindergarten through twelfth grade, college and law school in Nevada, I was not a citizen. I had several different immigration statuses throughout that time, which demonstrates the complexity of immigration. It is not static. An immigrant's status can change from one year to the next.

To give an example, I was previously an asylum-seeking derivative as a child. I later held TPS, and I was undocumented for a period of time. I later became a permanent resident. I became a citizen just last year.

To further highlight how long the process can take, I became a licensed Nevada attorney before I became a citizen.

For the people who talk about how to do things the right way, I will point out the right way for one person does not exist for another. Speaking from my personal and professional experience, the immigration process is not the same for everybody. One example does not apply to all people. This cannot be expected.

I am a member of a mixed-status family, which is common among Nevada families. Unlike the vast majority of other mixed-status families in Nevada, my family has someone they can turn to when they have questions about any

process or State agency they need to conduct business with. From paying a traffic ticket to getting a pet license or driver's license, my family has an attorney in their family. Not everyone has someone to help.

This bill is seeking to fill that gap by providing information, resources and guidance to the residents in our State. Immigration law can change significantly from one administration to the next. We cannot expect our State agencies to keep up with the changing laws. We cannot expect our State agencies to have immigration experts at every office.

Speaking from my experience of being in roundtables with State agencies, the agencies ask basic questions about immigration because immigration law is complicated. The ONA will be able to answer the State agencies' questions, provide guidance and develop policies that work for the State. This will be a benefit to everyone.

People talk about the immigration process and how things need to be done the right way. This bill is not about the immigration process. This bill is not about how people apply to become permanent residents or U.S. citizens. This bill is to help Nevada residents in need of information.

I support S.B. 538.

LYNN CHAPMAN (American Legion Auxiliary):

My dad is a World War II veteran. He is 92 years old. I moved him to Nevada in July of last year. In January, my dad started having medical problems and by January 7, he was in the VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System. I went to the hospital to see him every day from January through the first part of April. During that time, I met and talked with a lot of veterans. I got to know one man in particular. His name is Scott. Scott does not drink, smoke or take illegal drugs. He is at the VA medical center every day, staying inside to keep warm. He lives on the streets of Reno. Scott has Agent Orange problems and is dying from a brain tumor. Scott's money goes toward medications which the VA does not cover. He has a little money left over to eat once a day. Scott is scared because his eyesight is starting to go, and he is failing quickly.

This is one of many people I had spoken to at the VA. The State should use the tax money designated for the ONA to assist those who put their lives and their

limbs on the line for all of us as well as the veterans' families because their families sacrificed a lot.

It is funny how money can be found for the Office for New Americans or non-Americans, but the State is not able to find money for people who sacrificed so much.

We oppose S.B. 538. Shame on Nevada for forgetting its warriors. Shame on the Governor for not putting our citizens first and creating a bill like this while kicking our veterans and their families to the curb.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

Did you know that immigrants can also serve in the armed forces and then become veterans?

MS. CHAPMAN:

Yes, I do. That is fine because immigrants have then done something for our Country. It is good that immigrants want to be warriors. I am referring to American citizens who are being kicked to the curb every day. I ask you to go to the VA hospital where you can speak with them and see their conditions. It is not pretty. This is why I am angry.

CHAIR PARKS:

When I was in the service, I served with two individuals who were not U.S. citizens at the time of their military service.

MAUREEN MORRIS:

My husband and I, our neighbors and others are asking you to vote no on S.B. 538. What message is the State sending when it rewards those who break the Country's laws, enter Nevada and then receive free housing, food, education and medical treatment? When someone receives something for free, somebody else is paying.

What message is the State sending to those who enter the U.S. legally? "Don't bother. We don't care. Lawbreaking rewards greater benefits and faster." We do not know who is entering our State; gang members, drug dealers, rapists, robbers or murderers.

We in northern Nevada know about murder. A 19-year-old illegal murdered 4 people recently. One murder occurred a half a block from where I live. People were scared, they fled for safety—fearing for their lives. Most of the people fleeing were elderly. Our neighborhood looked like a ghost town for blocks. What message are we sending to this community? "Is this the new normal to live in fear?"

I receive flyers asking for help from the Food Bank of Northern Nevada. Seventy-one hundred northern Nevada citizens are having trouble putting food on the table. What are we telling the elderly whose incomes have not kept up with food costs or families who are struggling to put food on the table? "We're not helping you. We're rewarding those who break our laws."

Please vote no on S.B. 538.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

Did you know that the Food Bank of Northern Nevada also serves immigrants?

MS. MORRIS:

No, I was not sure of that. I keep getting the flyers in the mail asking for contributions. I do make contributions.

JANINE HANSEN (Nevada Families for Freedom):

The Governor's Office presentation indicated undocumented immigrants will benefit under this bill. In federal law, these individuals are known as illegal aliens. I am particularly concerned about section 4, subsections 3 and 4 of this bill.

The bill provides advocacy or lobbying by a State agency for federal, local and State laws. I am concerned Nevada taxpayer citizen dollars will be used to advocate for illegal immigrants through a State agency. This is a conflict of interest with regard to the concerns of Nevada's citizens.

I have other concerns about this bill. According to the Center for Immigration Studies, 62 percent of all households headed by illegal immigrants in Nevada used one or more welfare programs. When a child is present in the home, 86 percent of illegal immigrant households are using welfare. Through children is the primary way in which immigrants access these programs.

Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting estimates the annual fiscal burden on Nevada taxpayers associated with illegal immigration is about \$630 million. This figure was from 10 years ago in 2008. This equates to an annual average cost of about \$763 per native-born headed household in Nevada.

The Federal Reserve Board conducts an annual survey, called the Survey of Household Economics and Decisionmaking. When the survey results were released this year, it was noted 4 out of 10—or 40 percent—of American adults could not pay a \$400 expense with their cash savings. The average car repair bill is about \$500 to \$600. Therefore, 40 percent of Americans do not have the money to pay a \$400 expense. Some people may be able to pay the expense with a credit card or some may be able to borrow the money, but 11 percent of Americans have no resource to pay a \$400 expense.

Americans are in financial trouble. No matter what the statisticians tell us, unemployment figures are inaccurate. John Williams at Shadow Government Statistics indicates that almost 22 percent of Americans are unemployed because 95 million people—a record-breaking number—are not in the workforce because unemployed people have given up looking for work. The State cannot afford to help those who are here illegally—not because the State does not want to, but the State needs to help Americans who are suffering economically and help American citizens first.

MARY PORTER:

In listening to the statistics provided by those in favor of the bill and in looking at the handout provided by the Governor's Office, a person cannot help but be impressed with how well immigrants have done. Looking at the statistics for the physicians, the nurses and so forth, I question what the State really needs to do to achieve the improvement it is looking for. What is the purpose of creating a bureaucratic office which misses the mark because it gives unregulated power to the Executive Branch?

A number of organizations alluded to in prior testimony provide services to help immigrants integrate into our community. Those organizations include the immigration services of Nevada, UNLV's Immigration Clinic and Catholic Charities of Northern and Southern Nevada. These groups are providing services this bill is seeking to coordinate.

Is it not better or more "Nevada" to have several entities providing these services with different ideas, rather than one State agency in the Executive Branch, unregulated?

No examples were given of when an economic benefit would be gained if this law was enacted. The online resource that State agencies will create to provide information to those seeking licensure could be created without the ONA. This is a good idea and something which should have been looked at already. Maybe some agencies have already created these resources. Having this information online would be helpful to anyone who needed licensure. The State does not need to spend \$186,000 this year and \$207,000 next year to achieve that result.

This bill does not make immigration law any less difficult or confusing. Immigration law is still going to be complicated. Unfortunately, laws and legalistics are such to nonpractitioners of the law. The entities I mentioned are providing services to the community already. The entities can improve if necessary and do so without creating more taxes for Nevada residents.

The bill is a hopeful, but not a specific, implementation to achieve the results the State is looking for. Take a better look at what can be done economically and efficiently to achieve the result wanted. Creating this office is an expensive experiment which creates the kind of bureaucracy similar to the DMV. People do not want to go to the DMV because it is a bureaucracy. I want to see how a bureaucracy achieves the intended results.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

Would you support policies that make it easier for people to become citizens once they arrive in our Country?

MS. PORTER:

This bill does not do that. Citizens have to be complying with federal law. A person arriving in our Country can go to the Citizenship Resource Center, which is a web-based portal with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, to find out exactly how to become a citizen or obtain legal status. The public already has a place to go for this information. When the public needs more help, depending on who they want to go to, they can go to Catholic Charities or any other entity. The law does not become less confusing until legislators rewrite the law.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

Would you support efforts to make the law less confusing, removing the red tape and bureaucracy to make it easier for people to become citizens?

MS. PORTER:

The immigration policy should be less confusing already. Changes to policy can be done. For example, is it a fair situation that multimillionaires become citizens so easily? Is that an issue that should be looked at closely? The issue is complicated because it deals with so many foreign countries and interests that, sometimes, people are emotional about the issue. For example, the recent support to Haiti. People often work off their emotions more than they should.

All of us in this room are from immigrant parents. My family went through the process of having my daughter-in-law become a citizen. The process is not supposed to be easy but should be uncomplicated, straightforward and fair. Those are all things everyone could agree upon.

BOB RUSSO:

I oppose S.B. 538. I understand the intentions behind the bill are good after hearing the testimony today in support of this bill. The State wants to make it easier for people who come into this Country.

However, after getting clarification of the definition of "immigrant" in this bill, this bill supports and rewards people for breaking federal immigration laws. This is not right.

I am wholeheartedly in favor of legal immigration. Laws exist today to allow people who want to come to this Country and become citizens.

My fear is the State is supporting people who have broken the law. I am Italian. My four grandparents, around 1910 or so, came over through Ellis Island from Italy. My grandparents did it right. I am grateful for that. Going back far enough, all U.S. residents are offspring of people who immigrated to this Country.

It is not right that the State supports people who enter illegally, hop the fence to come in or whatever the case might be. According to the Federation for American Immigration Reform, in 2017, Nevada citizens paid tax dollars in excess of \$1.5 billion, around \$4,978 per illegal immigrant. This figure includes

the children as well. With the recent trend, these figures are expected to rise. This bill will encourage more illegal immigrants to come in to Nevada.

Another fear is this bill will divert our tax dollars away from those areas which need improvement, such as education. Nevada does not score well in the education department. Many other issues need improvement, such as: people who live on the streets, people with mental health issues or drug addiction disorders, veterans, infrastructure, and preserving and expanding our State parks and recreation areas.

A growing illegal immigrant population will also compete with Nevada residents for jobs and threaten their health and safety.

I ask you to oppose S.B. 538 and stand up for Nevada citizens.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

Do you realize this Office will also help people who have not broken the law?

MR. RUSSO:

I understand that.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

"Do you think we should close down all of the offices in this State that support ... "

MR. RUSSO:

I do not support this bill as long as it includes illegal immigrants. You clean the language up to remove illegal immigrants, and I will reevaluate it then.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

Should any office which provides support, information or services to individuals who live in Nevada stop providing services to anybody who has ever been convicted of a crime?

MR. RUSSO:

A person in the U.S. illegally should not be given those services.

JULIE MOORE:

I agree with the testimony in opposition of S.B. 538. My concern is some illegal immigrants are criminals as witnessed by the murder of four northern Nevadans in January of this year by an alleged illegal immigrant. The immigrant from El Salvador had been living in Nevada for one year. I live near the two women who were murdered in Gardnerville.

Additionally, criminal immigrants are drug dealers, sex traffickers and people who bring children—who are not their own children—to the U.S. illegally. The State should use its resources and tax dollars to assist Nevadan citizens, such as our veterans.

I ask you to oppose S.B. 538.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

You brought up an interesting point about criminal activity and a recent murder which was possibly committed by someone who was not in the U.S. with proper documentation. If the majority of murders were committed by straight white men, should we stop providing services to straight white men?

MS. MOORE:

Well, if you're in prison, then you shouldn't receive services. I don't agree with that, but these people have already broken the law by coming here illegally. They've broken the law. So, why should we, like the gentleman before me said, why should we provide services to them above homeless veterans, homeless white men, homeless Mexicans who are here legally, homeless black people who are here legally? You know, these are Nevada citizens. I don't ... I support people coming here as legal citizens through the right channel.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL:

Many of us take offense to the term "illegal immigrant." The speakers should refer to undocumented immigrants. I do not accept as true that any human being is illegal. Someone may be undocumented as to their immigration status. The speakers should respect that the term illegal is offensive.

MS. MOORE:

If a person commits murder, is that illegal?

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL:

People should not use the term "illegal" when referring to a person who is "undocumented." Undocumented immigrant describes immigration status.

MS. MOORE:

If a person breaks the law coming to the U.S., he or she is illegal.

LINDA BUCKARDT (NevadansCAN):

I am reading my written testimony in opposition of S.B. 538 ([Exhibit K](#)). Our U.S. citizens are not provided these types services or welfare if they move to Mexico. U.S. citizens get nothing.

PATRICIA (TRISH) MESSINGER:

I am against S.B. 538 and the ONA. It is a misleading bill which will cost taxpayers a lot. The bill does not distinguish between legal and illegal immigrants. This is an irresponsible and counterproductive use of citizens' tax dollars.

How is this initiative being funded? The State should use State resources and tax revenues to assist Nevada citizens—particularly, veterans—rather than helping illegal aliens with workforce training, quality of life, education, housing and health care. State resources should not be used to lobby the Legislature, Congress and local governments on behalf of illegal aliens.

I am a second-generation immigrant. My grandmother was tattooed and part of the Auschwitz concentration camp. I know what immigrant issues are like. I have grown up being called wrong things by wrong people. My family came here legally and were oppressed. If this Committee allows this bill, this Country will not be a Country of laws, it will be a Country of no laws.

Nevada's teachers asked for a raise. The money from this initiative could fund teacher's raises. Catholic Charities and other entities are performing services which this bill seeks to do. Why does the State need to duplicate these services?

Who is paying for this initiative? Is Caesars Entertainment or Planned Parenthood paying for this initiative since they support this bill? This Office should be created with money from other people's donations and not from Nevada taxpayers' coffers.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

You mentioned your family's immigration story. Would an office like this have been helpful to your family when they arrived in the U.S.?

MS. MESSINGER:

No. My family came to the U.S. legally. This bill would not have helped. My grandfather owned a business that sold used messengers' office equipment in Portland, Oregon. The business is still in operation today. My grandfather completed his immigration process properly and legally. It was not an easy process. I have friends who just became citizens. I also have friends who have been trying for 15 years to get their citizenship status, but my friends are going through the process the proper way. This is the way America works. It is not a perfect process. Until Congress changes their laws, Nevada has no right to change the State's laws to make this bill legal.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

Your grandparents immigrated with the necessary legal paperwork. This Office will also help people obtain driver's licenses, business licenses and understand where a person can go to file necessary tax documents and other similar daily activities.

Would that not have been helpful to your family?

MS. MESSINGER:

I was at the Legislature last week for the hearing on the bill "making it legal for illegals to get business licenses." I am against that as well. We are a Nation of legal people. My grandparents came here legally. My grandfather had no problem. There are hoops to go through, but my grandfather went through the proper process. My grandfather opened his own business, which is still around.

Catholic Charities, Planned Parenthood and many other entities help out. The State does not need to duplicate services that are already working nor spend my tax dollars on this.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

Do you understand that this office also helps people who have the proper documentation who are here in this Country?

MS. MESSINGER:

Yes. If a person has the proper documentation, he or she knows where to go. Plenty of organizations are available to tell a person where to go. I have friends who have gone through the hoops and friends who are going through the hoops right now. This initiative is a duplication of what is already in our community. The State will pay \$186,000 to \$207,000 for an office when the money should be going elsewhere.

Our school system is broken. Did you know that a veterans' hospital in southern Nevada has an empty wing because it cannot find psychiatric doctors to staff it? Spend the money from the ONA initiative to get a psychiatric doctor to open the wing in the VA hospital. That would help.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

Has it occurred to you that perhaps a great psychiatric doctor would be an immigrant?

MS. MESSINGER:

We are a Country of immigrants who are here legally. I am not trying to be rude. The necessities are already in place. I have friends going through the hoops right now. My friends know right where to go. This is a duplication of services that already exist.

GABRIELLE CLARK:

I cannot believe what I am hearing during this hearing. I am the only black person in this room and the only black person speaking today, period. This bill is going to affect my community. My community is competing with illegal aliens. My community does not receive assistance in getting jobs or getting our documentation together. The State does not create an office for African Americans to assist with getting driver's licenses or work permits so the African Americans can get a job at Caesars. My son worked hard to earn four college credits in high school while finishing high school in three years instead of four years. But my son could not go to college because we did not have enough money. My family did not qualify for assistance because we were over the income limit by \$74.50.

My community are the people who are affected here and now. Since my community is not represented in this room, as soon as I leave from here, I am

going down to the ghetto with my newly reconstructed knee, knock on every door and redpill every one of them.

LINDA CANNON (NevadansCAN):

NevadansCAN is a grassroots advocacy group of about 70,000 associates. I am opposed to S.B. 538. This bill sounds good on the surface but undermines our legal immigration system. My concern is this bill will assist those who have ignored our laws and entered Nevada illegally. It is unconscionable to divert funds from taxpayers' services meant for legal residents to this illegal population. Effectively, Nevada's elected representatives will be advocating for people here illegally instead of the taxpayers who elected them.

This will create a Nevada taxpayers' taxation without representation. This bill is pandering to our illegal population for Democratic votes. I do not see in this bill the concern for the effect this population will have on legal taxpaying Nevadans.

Studies done on the immigration population indicate taxpayers pay roughly \$14,000 a year per immigrant family because the immigrants come to the U.S. with lower education and fewer work skills. Even if a working person is in the immigrant household, taxpayers still have to pay roughly \$14,000 a year. These figures are from 2010. A person can only imagine how much that figure has gone up since the U.S. has had caravans at our borders.

I am not opposed to helping neighbors. I came from a small community where we helped each other. But the State cannot fund our broken school system. Teachers are asking for pay raises and have been promised raises. But teachers are fighting with children who speak multiple languages from multiple cultures. Many issues exist in the classroom; the State needs more teachers, and schools need more classrooms.

Veterans are on the streets waiting for care from the VA. It is unconscionable that the State would think about putting money into a redundant agency and ask taxpayers to foot the bill. These monies should go for the services I mentioned.

I am sure Governor Sisolak would appreciate having the additional funds so he can keep his promise of raises to those teachers.

I am asking you to prioritize the legal taxpaying citizens of Nevada and vote no on S.B. 538.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

You indicated this bill will undermine our legal immigration system. How would an office which helps people navigate the immigration system undermine that system?

Ms. CANNON:

Giving assistance to illegal immigrants undermines people coming to the U.S. legally. The State should support people who support our laws, who enter the U.S. legally and abide by those laws. The State should not encourage the folks who walk in.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

Can you point to that section of the bill for me?

Ms. CANNON:

I'm sorry, I don't have a copy of the bill in front of me. And it probably isn't in there. It probably doesn't specify because the language I am hearing today is about undocumented immigrant. These folks that are going to be mostly using this are going to be illegals and we know it. And you know it. So let's be honest with each other.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

How do we know that?

Ms. CANNON:

"That's the whole purpose of it. Are you denying it? Are you saying this is for legal immigrants? Well, why did you not put it in the language?"

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

I did not write this language. This bill establishes the Office for New Americans which will help all immigrants, regardless of their documentation status. I would like to see some documentation to back up your statements on the record of who will be using these services.

MS. CANNON:

I would like to see some documentation on who this bill is for. Are they legal or illegal immigrants?

MARY ROONEY:

My mother was an immigrant. She came here after World War II and married my father. My late husband was also an immigrant from Ireland. However, my mother and husband came here legally.

It is a worthy goal to help individuals realize their full potential as human beings. Including illegal aliens or illegal immigrants in this bill troubles me. Many American citizens have experienced dire circumstances such as children born into poverty, violence, citizens who have physical or mental limitations and handicaps, as well as wounded veterans who are struggling to rebuild their lives. These citizens could benefit from services.

I recognize the desirability of providing these services. Taxpayer dollars should not pay for these services. Numerous not-for-profit organizations, private companies and charities already perform this type of assistance. In many cases, these organizations are already subsidized with federal dollars.

It is particularly egregious that taxpayer dollars will be used to lobby on behalf of illegal immigrants in place of and before legal citizens or legal immigrants. It is disheartening that such legislation could be proposed.

Ten years ago, tens of thousands of Nevadans were unemployed, underemployed and working in menial jobs beneath their talents and their dignity. It is called life. Even though Nevada is enjoying a better economy today, should another economic downturn occur, this bill will put the welfare and needs of illegal immigrants before those of Nevada citizens.

I oppose this bill and ask everybody else to do so.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

Do you think that any policy which helps a particular group of people automatically puts the needs of that group of people above everyone else's?

MS. ROONEY:

The people who come to the U.S. illegally and flaunt our laws and values do not deserve special consideration. That is all I am going to say.

JULIE HEREFORD (NevadansCAN):

NevadansCAN is a grassroots action-oriented group with a network of coalitions protecting the United States Constitution and the Constitution of Nevada.

There has been a lot of good testimony against S.B. 538. I immigrated into this Country 50 years ago with a few thousand dollars in my pocket. I worked many different jobs and found many ways to establish a life in this land of opportunity. It did not matter that my skin is yellow, green or white. I was given opportunities. I never relied on government programs.

We as taxpayers like to fund government programs, but the priorities have to be in a strong economy, strong national security, smaller government and lower taxes. If we do not address our citizen needs in those priorities, we are wasting our beautiful American Country, its programs and the land of opportunity that legal immigrants came for.

Even though this bill is created with good intentions, the No. 1 one concern in our State is education. As we speak, the Governor and the Legislature refused to fund the Education Savings Account, the opportunity scholarship and to give the teachers a pay raise.

Those are the priorities the State needs to look at first before passing a law to establish a frivolous program without a clear, specific purpose.

I urge you to consider your vote and vote no on S.B. 538.

DEBORAH CUTSHAW:

I am a retired prison caseworker and volunteer at the prison as a teacher. I oppose S.B. 538. The State should help navigate people through our current State agencies. If agencies are that inept, the State should study them and hire more people.

When I was a caseworker, I knew what programs were available to help inmates upon parole or expiration of their sentences. I worked with INS court when I was a caseworker and mainly saw inmates return to prison in large

numbers. The prisoners who were deported disrupted the system by making the hearings process long by have three hearings instead of one hearing.

People do not use the term "illegal immigrant" in a derogatory manner. The term is more of a classification and a word to help understand the different ethnicities. I agree with the testimony of Ms. Hansen and Ms. Porter. I helped the families of illegal immigrants by providing proof the inmate was in prison when the families applied for welfare.

I am uncomfortable with the "New American" term because it is not defined in the bill. The term sounds like it is to confuse voters or volunteers. The term makes it sound like the bill refers to new U.S. citizens.

If State agency staff, such as unemployment insurance, does not help legal immigrants or undocumented people, the staff should be held accountable. I have not applied for a job since 1982. I do not know what the system does. I am concerned this bill helps illegal immigrants or undocumented people.

Ninety-five percent of people in prison have probation. When a person is an illegal immigrant, he or she does not get deported immediately. He or she gets deported once his or her prison term is expired or he or she is paroled to a hold.

I am concerned with the tax dollars. Study the State agencies and fix them. Hire more people. That was my biggest frustration. The agency did not hire enough employees to do our jobs.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

You mentioned the public should work through agencies that already exist and the State should review and question how those agencies are helping people. Have you read the bill?

Ms. CUTSHAW:

I have read the bill as a concerned citizen and not as an attorney would. I am concerned the bill is duplicating services. I need more time to study the bill as an academic.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

Section 4, subsection 2 states one thing the Office will do is review and analyze the policies and programs of State agencies relating to immigrants and make

recommendations on such policies, including the elimination of duplication in existing State programs. Are you against this policy?

Ms. CUTSHAW:

I cannot say if I am against it or for it. I would have to sit on an agency board and talk to other people involved. As a former State employee, I would know that type of information at the time. I have not worked since I retired. I cannot speak for what is going on now. But people study agencies all the time. As State employees, we used to get annoyed when our agency was studied because it took time away from our jobs, having to write reports on what we did rather than just doing our normal jobs.

CHAIR PARKS:

You made a statement regarding the need to navigate people to the right agency. The primary goal for the establishment of this proposed office is to do just that.

Ms. CUTSHAW:

When I was working, we knew where to refer people for help, whether it was welfare to give people food stamps or money for their medical expenses.

BARBARA JONES:

This is a big issue for me. A lot of people are against this bill. I have calmed down after hearing other people testify. Janine Hansen's statistics and facts are always right on target.

The concern is not about immigration. The concern is about the people who are breaking the law. It is hurting people in our Country.

I was in a meeting when somebody heard about this bill. The person was so outraged, the person had to leave the room to calm down. Another person who is a local talk show host was livid. People are concerned because they hear how it is hurting local people.

The burden from the increased tax and costs is going to come down to the taxpayers. The State will have more burden on them. A lot of people are struggling now who have put their lives into this State.

The needed infrastructure for housing being constructed is astounding to me. Now the State wants the water from the private wells to help people who have come in legally as well as other people.

I am not being racist but will give you facts. The recent murder was already mentioned. A group of houses in my neighborhood is considered to be in a no-crime zone. Three houses have been hit with crime. Two houses on the end of the street are occupied by dark-skinned people. The houses that got hit were occupied by white-skinned people. When the fire department came to evacuate for a fire, the dark-skinned people ran instead of opening the door to the fire department. I suspect the dark-skinned residents are illegal. I am not saying they committed the crimes, but their kids have been in trouble. I am not prejudiced because my neighbor, who I love, is a legal dark-skinned person married to a white lady. They have been wonderful neighbors.

Helping immigrants with professions disturbs me greatly with what is going on with education. I am a teacher who taught at Truckee Meadows Community College and in California. I grew up in Nevada. I am part of an original Carson City family here since the 1920s. I have never seen or heard of such crimes as we see every day on the news.

I have a hard time believing the State had to go to Syria for a doctor. Somebody testified to that. I heard the testimony of a qualified Washoe County teacher who is unable to substitute because the schools will not hire him. Do not tell me the State is making room for the illegals and helping the illegals through State agencies to get provisions when the State's own people are not able to get jobs.

Nobody here wants to offend. We just want you to know we are unhappy.

CYRUS HOJJATY:

I am a son of two legal immigrants from Iran. Senate Bill 538 provides an incentive for lawbreakers to stay in our State. The caravan is coming, and this bill will give more incentives. The immigration process is tough, but America has the right to limit what kinds of people can come in to the Country. We Americans cannot turn our Country into some place like China or India.

The immigration process was difficult for my cousin who came here legally. I now work for him. This bill is an insult to my parents who immigrated the right

way. People keep dropping the ethnic or race card. Why are Persian Americans not going through this problem? If the system is discriminatory, why are people not going against us? We as Persian Americans are making above the national average in wages. We do not go on welfare programs. How does a person explain this?

I will address the statistics provided by the presenters. The benefits from immigration that Nevada has experienced are in the nursing industry and good food. The vast majority of immigrants are not as described in the presentation. Immigrants are not like my parents. A disproportionate number of low-skilled immigrants come to the U.S. unlawfully. How do the immigrants get a job? By stealing identities. The immigrants bring their children—many of whom are born in the U.S.—and access government programs. In 1993, then-United States Senator Harry Reid admitted to this. The schools are overcrowded. Many immigrants take English language learner (ELL) programs. I am bilingual. I did not take ELL programs. I speak three languages. Maybe the State can learn from Persian Americans.

Immigrants send a lot of money abroad. I see it in Mexico, the Philippines and Ethiopia. My parents do not send money abroad. Learn from my parents.

Immigration has made Las Vegas look more like a third-world nightmare. Drive down to Bonanza Road. Why do my parent's neighborhoods not look like third-world conditions? Take a look at Beverly Hills.

I do not have a problem with the people who support this bill. I understand immigration is tough, and the people are making a better life. I have a problem with what they support. My biggest concern is with the casino lobby such as Caesars and MGM resorts. Many casinos donated to the Legislators' campaigns. The casinos are the ones hiring the immigrants, not to mention the unions, such as the culinary union, which is nothing more than a way to pump politicians, especially the corrupt ones. Why are the vast majority of gaming dealers, cashiers, casino cooks and taxi drivers immigrants? Why can the casinos not give those jobs to young American native-born citizens who need these jobs? It is no wonder millennials are not going anywhere.

Immigration has had a negative impact on our wages. This bill gives the caravans an incentive to come to Nevada. This is why I am concerned about DACA. The U.S. will have another round of DACA if a million immigrants flood

into our State. Many immigrants have reported diseases. Should I get sick? This initiative is nothing more but a way to pump corrupt politicians. Many DACA officials meet with people like United States Senator Jackie Rosen or United States Senator Catherine Cortez Masto. When do the Senators hold a town hall meeting to represent people like me—American citizens? Legislators are putting noncitizens interests and unlawful immigrants over citizens. What have I done to deserve this? This is the problem.

This initiative is taxation without representation, which is unfair to my parents. It breaks my heart to pay taxes for this initiative when the State can spend it on a lot of different things. Make a deal with the taxpayers. Stop building all these new homes and population growth. I have alternative ideas and designs. This bill is neglectful and unfair. A better solution to the problem is E-Verify, birthright citizenship and taxing remittances. We should focus the Country's resources in those areas.

JIM VERREES:

I ask you to oppose this bill. Senate Bill 538 establishes yet another State government bureaucracy. The components of the bill can be provided by charitable organizations. This bill does not differentiate legal versus illegal assistance.

For the past several years, there has been a push toward abandonment of the law. This bill is nothing more than a Trojan horse which will essentially assist criminal aliens. The impact of the abdication of promoting adherence to the laws of the land are enumerable.

Take for instance, yesterday, Mother's Day, when Angel Families relate to the loss of loved ones at the hands of illegal aliens. If immigration law had been upheld, these unfortunate events might not have happened.

There was a time in our Nation's history when following the laws was an expected compact among our citizens. How have we fallen to such a state that our Legislators are now encouraging and writing laws which assist lawbreakers?

I ask you to oppose S.B. 538.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

You do not want to help people without the proper documentation. But the logic would then extend that the government should never provide services to anyone who has ever broken the law. Is this really your position?

MR. VERREES:

You are hedging at this point. I found it offensive when you talked about criminal white males. Any ethnic group can be targeted for discussion. Aiding and abetting people who have broken the law worsens the state of the United States, which is already bad. This is why I oppose this bill. The U.S. has many problems as it is. This bill will exacerbate that condition.

Does that answer your question?

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

No, not really.

SENATOR OHRENSCHALL:

I see tremendous possibilities for this office. In the 1930s, a horrible government took power in Germany and decided to ethnically cleanse Germany of Jews, Gypsies and LGBT populations. In 1939, a ship called the MS St. Louis sailed from Hamburg with 937 Jewish refugees trying to find a place to accept them and give them asylum, so the refugees would not end up in Hitler's death camps.

The ship sailed to America. Some of the refugees were saved, but 254 of the passengers were killed in Hitler's death camps. The ship was sent back and not allowed to land in America. Those were folks who did not have the proper documentation. Perhaps they could have qualified for asylum if an office similar to ONA existed and someone would have been able to try to help those refugees.

I am excited about this office. I am glad the Governor is bringing this bill.

MR. MORALES:

Thank you for your patience in hearing all the opinions about this bill. I thank the opposition for the information. I have the entire Division of Welfare and Supportive Services manual which outlines which immigrants can receive means-tested benefits.

There is a lot of confusion on this bill. I would be happy to clarify one-on-one what this proposed office will do.

The ONA is not intended to circumvent any kind of requirements to obtain services. The Office does not have that authority. That authority comes from the federal government. This office will not be a direct service provider. It will not be qualifying people for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). The welfare office handles those programs.

Reading verbatim from the manual, the requirements to receive TANF or SNAP are: "All individuals applying for TANF or SNAP must be a U.S. citizen, a U.S. non-citizen national or a qualified non-citizen to receive benefits."

Welfare has an electronic verification system similar to E-Verify to verify an applicant's immigration status before paying any of these benefits. The entire manual is on the website. Anybody can go online to read it.

Who are the noncitizen nationals or qualified noncitizens who can receive benefits? The manual states qualified noncitizens include veterans, active duty military, their spouses, unmarried surviving spouses and their children, certain members of tribes that during the Vietnam Era assisted U.S. military personnel. The ONA will not circumvent the regulations.

Undocumented immigrants do not receive benefits. That is one notion that I keep hearing repeatedly. The requirements are clearly outlined in the manual. I ask that before a person speaks so passionately and spreads these lies to read through the manual and realize an electronic verification system already exists along with required documentation.

We are not limiting the Office for New Americans to exclusively help documented immigrants because it is not the moral or ethical thing to do. Nor is it a responsible thing to do. If a person comes into the ONA to request a resource guide, the staff is not going to act as immigration officials and say, "Show me your passport before receiving any kind of resource."

If the same person goes to the Department of Wildlife to request a resource guide for our State parks or how to obtain a hunting or fishing license, the staff

does not request immigration information either. It is not practical or responsible for offices to request this information.

The underlying issue repeatedly heard is about services and benefits. The ONA will not qualify people for welfare benefits. The welfare benefit process is clearly outlined in the Division of Welfare and Supportive Services manual.

We ask for your support of S.B. 538 and the vision for this office.

CHAIR PARKS:

I am going back to testimony Senator Denis provided two years ago when he submitted S.B. No. 186 of the 79th Session. He provided a quotation from a publication.

Immigration always has been controversial in the United States. More than two centuries ago, Benjamin Franklin worried that too many German immigrants would swamp America's predominantly British culture. In the mid-1800s, Irish immigrants were scorned as lazy drunks, not to mention Roman Catholics. At the turn of the last century a wave of "new immigrants"—Polish, Italians, Russian Jews—were believed to be too different ever to assimilate into American life. Today the same fears are raised about immigrants from Latin America and Asia, but current critics of immigration are as wrong as their counterparts were in previous eras.

We will close the hearing on S.B. 538 and open the hearing on A.B. 86.

ASSEMBLY BILL 86 (2nd Reprint): Revises provisions relating to governmental purchasing. (BDR 27-182)

KEVIN DOTY (Acting Administrator, Purchasing Division, Department of Administration):

Assembly Bill 86 is a refresh for NRS 332 which governs purchasing by local entities and NRS 333 which governs purchasing by the State. It updates old language. In the Assembly, A.B. 86 was amended to move language around in NRS 332. Because of this, the bill appears to be adding new requirements, such as keeping documents for at least seven years, as seen in section 2. That requirement is in the law now, but the way the bill was amended and language moved around makes it look like a new requirement.

Other amendments to this bill made in the Assembly due to opposition include removing local governments' ability to use reverse auctions and removing the authority for the Commission to Study Governmental Purchasing to request two bill draft requests.

For the most part, this bill cleans up old language and modernizes how State purchases are done now. The State Purchasing Act was enacted in 1951. At that time, our business model involved the Administrator estimating supply and equipment needs over the course of the year, such as manual typewriters or slide rules. The Purchasing Division would buy the supplies and equipment, store them in a warehouse and dole them out as needed by the agencies. Today, the Division orders goods and has them delivered directly to the agency needing them.

More importantly, the Purchasing Division's activities have changed dramatically since 1951. Much of what the Division does now is service-based and includes contracts for the provisions of services instead of just buying goods. In 1951, Medicaid did not exist. A lot of what the Division does now is the procurement of services using Medicaid funds from the federal government.

In 1951, people did not talk about IT. Today, the Purchasing Division does procurements for sophisticated IT implementations for the State. The updated process requires changes to our statute.

Sections 38 and 39 cover the issuance of bulletins indicating what supplies and equipment are available in the warehouse. The Division no longer stores supplies; therefore, the Division does not issue bulletins. Therefore, that language is being removed.

Section 29 deletes the requirement that we read bids aloud. The vendors no longer gather in our conference room to hear the bids being read aloud. This process is done electronically through our NevadaEPro system. The vendors receive emails.

Likewise, section 36 of the bill deletes the posting requirements. In 1951, it probably made sense to let people know a bid was awarded by printing a piece of paper and putting it on a billboard. Now, our vendors are registered in NevadaEPro and receive emails when bid awards take place.

From a policy perspective, the only real change in policy is in section 32. Statute contain a preference for awarding purchasing contracts to a locally owned business operated by a disabled veteran. The preference only applies to bids or proposals with costs of more than \$50,000 but no more than \$500,000 in value. Having gone back and read the legislative history, I cannot figure out why those limitations were placed in statute years ago. This bill will expand the local disabled veteran preference to apply to all goods and services.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

I want to confirm that the requirements to purchase recycled products in section 4 applies to recycled paper products and other products.

MR. DOTY:

That is my understanding.

MIKE CATHCART (City of Henderson):

We thank the sponsor for bringing the bill forward. This bill will modernize our processes at the local level and make the City's purchasing more efficient. The City of Henderson was part of the purchasing workgroup that met during the Interim to come up with the language.

We support the amended version of A.B. 86.

DAVE DAZLICH (Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce):

We support A.B. 86. Streamlining the purchasing process is a good use of taxpayer money and will help to make these purchases more efficient.

CHAUNSEY CHAU-DUONG (Southern Nevada Water Authority):

We support A.B. 86. We appreciate the sponsor for bringing this bill forward.

BRITTANY WALKER (Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada):

We support A.B. 86 and thank the sponsor for bringing it forward.

CHAIR PARKS:

The bill covers not only NRS 332, which is local government purchasing, but also NRS 333, which is State purchasing.

We will close the hearing on A.B. 86 and open the hearing on A.B. 413.

ASSEMBLY BILL 413 (1st Reprint): Revises provisions relating to local governments. (BDR 19-893)

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DINA NEAL (Assembly District No. 7):

This bill concerns business impact statements. This is a continuation of a policy which occurred in 2013. I will summarize the changes.

Section 1.5 adds "health district" under local government bound by the business impact statements.

Section 1.9, subsection 1 adds if a business impact statement is prepared pursuant to NRS 237.080, a public meeting must be held at least ten calendar days before the public meeting of the governing body is held to adopt the proposed rule.

Section 1.9, subsection 1 adds "public" to the meeting process that affects subsection 3:

The governing body of a local government shall not include the consideration of a business impact statement on the agenda for a public meeting unless the statement has been prepared and is available for public inspection at the time the agenda is first posted.

Section 2, subsection 2, paragraph (c) adds provisions stating if the governing body does not comply with any of the requirements of NRS 237.030 to 237.150, then the rule adopted by the governing body may be invalidated.

This is an "or" statement which adds the provision above to the list of grounds on which a business may object to a rule adopted by a governing body. This means the governing body of the local government must comply with the business impact statement requirements or failure shall result in an invalidation of any action taken by the local government.

Section 2, subsection 3 adds language to readopt the rule. After receiving a petition pursuant to subsection 1, if the governing body determines that the petition has merit, the governing body must take action to readopt or amend the rule to which the business objected after considering the business impact statement.

This bill is strengthening business impact statements. The intent is to ensure that when a local government or State agency adopts a rule, it takes into consideration the effect upon businesses—not randomly or without thought but full consideration. This bill also gives local entities time to review the regulation and submit the business impact statements after thoughtful dialogue.

SENATOR KIECKHEFER:

Is there a specific reason to add health districts, or was there a reason they were excluded in the previous version?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN NEAL:

The health districts came to me and requested to be added. I do not know why they were excluded.

SENATOR SCHEIBLE:

I am not familiar with this process. Is a business impact statement submitted unsolicited, or does a governing body have an obligation to request the statements? Does it vary? Does this bill change any of the process for triggering a business impact statement?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN NEAL:

In 2013, when the first bill was passed, the law directed the governing body to produce a business impact statement if certain actions would impose a significant economic burden on a business. The statement was supposed to be a part of the governing body's agenda and part of the record. This bill does not create that process. That process was created in 2013. This is an extension and expansion of the prior bill.

CHAIR PARKS:

Does the ten-day time limit afford an impacted business time to file an opposition if the impact statement does not adequately address the impact?

ASSEMBLYWOMAN NEAL:

It could. Section 1.9, subsection 1 allows at least ten calendar days before the public meeting to review the rule. The policy allows form. Section 1.9, subsection 1, paragraphs (a) through (g) lay out the form of the business impact statement. The required information ensures that the local government or the State entity attempted to put forth the information.

Local entities were putting forth limited information. For example, statements containing one sentence indicating an adverse effect existed without explaining what the adverse effect was. The business community is trying to make sure thoughtful dialogue and explanations transpire. Entities should not indicate that it completed the business impact statement without further explanation and move on with its agenda.

MR. DAZLICH:

The Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce supports A.B. 413. The inclusion of business impact statements is vital for transparency and responsiveness of local governments. This measure will help protect small businesses as they work in partnership with local governments and other entities.

MR. CHAU-DUONG:

The Southern Nevada Water Authority is a local government organization that prepares business impact statements. We support A.B. 413 and appreciate Assemblywoman Neal bringing this bill forward.

BRYAN WACHTER (Senior Vice President, Retail Association of Nevada):

We support A.B. 413. We thank the sponsor for bringing the bill forward. We appreciate the expansion and the ability to put additional teeth into the language so the business impact statements can further bring transparency to the process.

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CHAIR PARKS:

We will close the hearing on A.B. 413. Hearing no further business, this concludes the Senate Committee on Government Affairs meeting. The meeting is adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Becky Archer,
Committee Secretary

APPROVED BY:

Senator David R. Parks, Chair

DATE: _____

EXHIBIT SUMMARY				
Bill	Exhibit / # of pages		Witness / Entity	Description
	A	1		Agenda
	B	13		Attendance Roster
S.B. 538	C	15	Francisco Morales / Office of the Governor	Presentation
S.B. 538	D	1	Francisco Morales / Office of the Governor	Summary
S.B. 538	E	1	Ariel Guerara / Mi Familia Vota	Testimony in Support
S.B. 538	F	2	Ashley Garcia / Make the Road Nevada	Testimony in Support
S.B. 538	G	1	Katie Ryan / Dignity Health-St. Rose Dominican	Testimony in Support
S.B. 538	H	1	Sylvia Lazos / Nevada Immigrant Coalition	Testimony in Support
S.B. 538	I	1	Bethany Khan / Culinary Workers Union 226	Testimony in Support
S.B. 538	J	1	Vinny Spotleson / Office of U.S. Representative Dina Titus	Presented Letter of Support from U.S. Representative Dina Titus
S.B. 538	K	1	Linda Buckardt / NevadansCAN	Testimony in Opposition