



March 21, 2023

Dear Members of the Assembly Committee on Education,

I am writing on behalf of the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada in support of Assembly Bill 217 to increase access to higher education for students who have experienced homelessness.

Homeless youth face a number of barriers to pursuing postsecondary education. "According to a 2019 national study, young adults who experienced homelessness were less than one-third as likely to be enrolled in a four-year college as stably housed peers."¹ Navigating the application process, maintaining educational records, and financial limitations are all challenges these students face.

AB217 would address these challenges by expanding the tuition and fee waivers available to former foster youth to homeless and unaccompanied youth, creating a liaison role for students experiencing homelessness that is accessible, and ensuring that priority registration is available for these students. We urge your support.

Sincerely,

Christine Saunders, MSW
Policy Director
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada

¹<https://schoolhouseconnection.org/youth-homelessness-and-higher-education-an-overview/#:~:text=Youth%20Experiencing%20Homelessness%20Face%20Barriers%20to%20Pursuing%20College.&text=According%20to%20a%202019%20national,college%20as%20stably%20housed%20peers.>

The Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada was founded in 1994 by Nevada activists to build a more fair and just Nevada that puts people and planet first. We organize with front line communities and directly impacted leaders for policy changes and community investments that improve the lives of Nevadans.

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