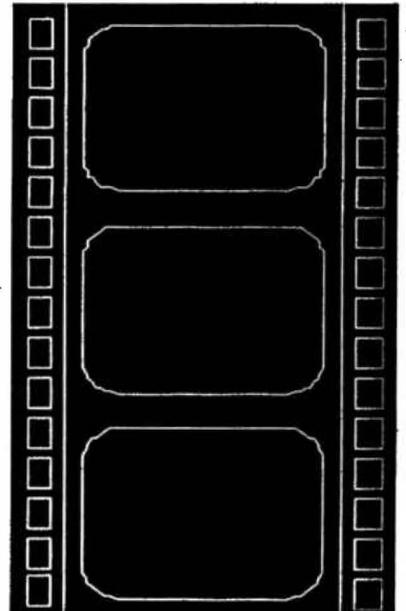
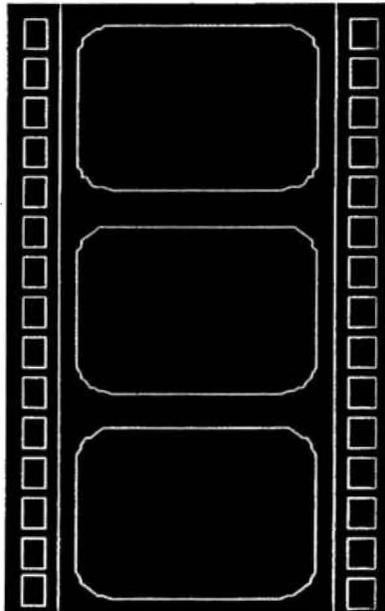
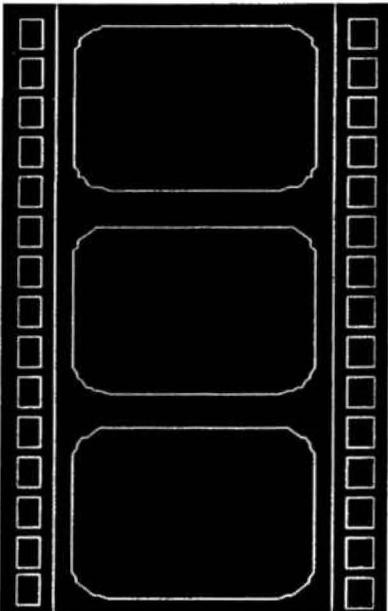


SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL

A.B. 409



WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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RENO, NEVADA 89520

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March 23, 1977

Assemblyman John Vergiels  
Chairman, Assembly Education Committee  
Legislative Building  
Carson City, Nevada

RE: Testimony Given on A.B. 409 on March 21, 1977 to the Assembly Education Committee

Dear Assemblyman Vergiels:

At your meeting of the Education Committee on March 21, 1977 you asked me to elaborate in writing on the comments I made to the Education Committee concerning Assembly Bill 409.

In lines 11-19 of the Bill, local Boards of Trustees may develop procedures to allow four (4) year old minors to be tested to see if the child is "academically and psychologically prepared to enter kindergarten": Since NRS 3888.060 Subsection 2 says in-part - "any child who will arrive at the age of five (5) years by September 30 may be admitted to kindergarten"...the implication which is then set forth in A.B. 409 is that the student four years of age who is academically and psychologically advanced so as to effectively compete and function in kindergarten, may be tested for admission purposes and if enrolled counted for apportionment purposes.

In my presentation to the committee, I cited NRS 388.490 Subsection 4 which reads "academically talented minors may be admitted at the age of 4 years to special programs established for such minors and their enrollment or attendance may be counted for apportionment purposes." I made this reference to simply point out to the committee that there is already existing legislative relief by which parents who have 4 year old children who were academically advanced, could get their children enrolled in school. Since the legislature had placed the 5 years of age limitation in NRS 388.060 then it logically follows that the only reason for admitting a minor younger than 5 years of age would be for academic reasons.

It would appear that whatever date is established for entrance into kindergarten, there will always be children who are very close to the legal attendance age, and these same children will always be considered "ready" by their parents for involvement in the kindergarten program. Both the legislature and local school districts must in effect "Bite the Bullet" and live with the results.

March 23, 1977

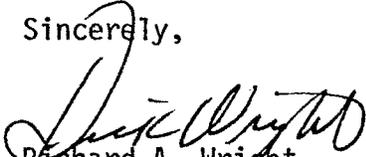
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It is also our contention that requiring parents to pay a fee for the cost of testing their child is in fact discriminatory. The parent who can afford such costs could then have their child in a kindergarten program whereas the parent with a child just as talented but with lesser monetary resources would not be able to have their child in the public education system at 4 years of age. It would seem more appropriate for the legislature to appropriate monies so that all testing would be paid from public funds.

It is anticipated that it will take a psychologist 2 hours per student to test, score, report to parents and write a written report. This would have to be over and above the normal yearly duties of the Testing and Guidance personnel. Depending upon the number of students to be tested there would be a subsequent increase in costs.

Based upon the comments provided above, unless the committee would make substantial changes in the intent of the Bill, I would have difficulty supporting A.B. 409.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Wright  
Director, Federal/Vocational Programs

RW:lb