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Members of the Ways and Means Committee

This letter is to express my support for Assemblywoman Vonne Chowning's AB 327. I wish I could join with my colleagues from Reno and Elko but I am unable to be with them today because of a pressing work schedule.

Joan Taylor, Nancy Remington and I have worked together in the Nevada Writing Projects for several years now, and I know that their testimony today is right in line with my thinking. We are united in our efforts to improve the teaching of writing in Nevada schools.

I am particularly concerned about the critical need of our second language students and their teachers. In the South, teachers are desperately seeking additional training in order to help them reach this important population. The Nevada Writing Projects have the potential to assist with such professional development, but we are in desperate need of funding.

This weekend the Southern Nevada Writing Project is hosting a Writing Fair for elementary students K-4, we invited at risk students and offered scholarships for those who were unable to pay the nominal fee. Instead of the 75-100 expected participants, we have registered almost 350 children and have had to turn many away, as we just didn't have the resources to accommodate them. This demonstrates the need and the interest.

With additional funding we can service more students and their teachers. Not only can we provide more opportunities such as the one described, but with additional state funding we are in a better position to leverage federal dollars. As the three writing project sites work together in addressing the problems we face we will have the opportunity to share expertise and find strength in collaboration.

I sincerely request your favorable consideration of this bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Rosemary Holmes-Gull
Director, Southern Nevada Writing Project

ASSEMBLY WAYS AND MEANS
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SUBMITTED BY: So. Nev. Writing Project