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Ex I

Senator Raggio and Senate Finance Committee members,

Thank you for the privilege of speaking today on behalf of Senate Bill 252.

My name is Lucretia Glidewell. I have for the last four years offered financial consulting services to several charter schools and committees to form charter schools in both the Northern and Southern areas of Nevada. I believe that the suggested changes will provide benefits to both the charter schools and the Dept. of Education. Having dealt with charter schools in both Washoe and Clark counties, I fully support Senate Bill 252's proposed changes for two major reasons:

- 1) Duplication of charter school oversight by the Dept of Education and the sponsoring district. This duplication process is indeed costing the State money, either by the Dept. of Education or the sponsoring district, as well as the charter schools, through current personnel.

During the application and monitoring process of charter schools duplication by the Dept. of Education and the sponsoring school district occurs in the following areas:

Application process duplications:

1. Projected Budget
2. Curriculum
3. Educational program

Monitoring process duplications:

1. Attendance Records
2. Staffing/Licensure oversight
3. Financial Management
4. Curriculum

The charter schools are also required by NRS to have a yearly independent audit. The sponsoring districts seem to be requiring their personnel to basically cover the same audit procedures in April/May of each year just prior to the independent audit. I believe that this creates unnecessary costs for both the sponsoring district and the charter school.

- 2) Provides for a uniform and consistent set of policies governing charter schools statewide.

The charter schools in Nevada are trying to share information to avoid experiencing or creating the same problems. But when each sponsoring district handles the charter schools differently, this is frustrating and costly for the charter schools.

Currently, Washoe and Clark County are handling the following areas for charter schools differently:

1. Special Education Funding
2. Implementation of SMART

My experience with the Nevada Charter schools has been a positive challenge. I truly believe that the growing needs of today's society require us to seek out change and innovation in education. I look forward to participating and helping to improve the Nevada Charter Schools.

Thank you.  
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