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Good morning, Chairman Raggio and members of the committee,

For the record, I am Jim Hager, superintendent of the Washoe County School District and president of the Nevada Association of School Superintendents. This morning I am speaking on behalf of Nevada's 17 county school superintendents in support of AB266, the bill which brings forth the iNVEST program.

Two years ago, as the superintendents discussed K-12 funding issues with Governor Guinn, he challenged us to develop a plan that would provide a starting point for discussions related to education for the next legislative session. We took his challenge seriously, and over the interim spent a large portion of our time discussing one question: "What is needed to improve student achievement?"

Starting with that question – "what is needed to improve student achievement?" – brings an entirely different answer than asking, "how can K-12 get more money?" Our proposal still requires funding, we know, but by identifying specific educational strategies and needs (and accountability measures for each strategy), we think we have provided a blueprint for educational improvements that could make a difference in the education we provide our students.

We know the timing couldn't be worse. The price tag on iNVEST weighed in at a cool \$879 million dollars. Still, having once asked the question, we didn't feel we could ignore the answer.

So, how can we improve student achievement in Nevada? The superintendents believe there are four components to the solution:

1. Districts must have adequate basic support for the services provided
2. Districts must have the capacity to attract and retain an adequate work force
3. Instructional time for students must be increased, and
4. Educational opportunities must be increased.

Various members of this committee have seen the iNVEST proposal in its entirety, so rather than repeat that presentation so late in the session when you have other business to complete, we'll merely provide you with another copy of the iNVEST proposal.

AB266 was introduced in Ways and Means with every element of the iNVEST plan, including its \$879 million fiscal note. The amended version in front of you removes the *implementation* of the elements of iNVEST, and therefore removes the fiscal note, but recognizes the four basic tenets and the education strategies the superintendents outlined as methods to improve student achievement and as a blueprint for future consideration.

I know that every single legislator serving in this building cares about education and is concerned that every student is adequately prepared for the challenges of life. We encourage the passage of AB266 so the work of the superintendents in addressing the need of student achievement can be considered as a blueprint to improve education in Nevada.