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# Useful Communications and News

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<http://www.neamb.com/>



**Login and use your NSEA Access membership card for members' only discounts at:**

<http://www.memberweb.com/memberweb/NewLogin.asp>

## **NSEA President Takes on Legislators for Not Looking to Revenue Sources to Solve Budget Crisis**

*Courage and Leadership...it's what our kids need!*

(Carson City, NV)—NSEA President Lynn Warne testified before the Interim Finance Committee today pressing legislators to look to large corporations and industries who pay little or no taxes to the state.

“...I must tell you that we all are tired of the hand-wringing and the seemingly rehearsed response ‘there is no appetite for taxes.’ Well, there is even less of an appetite for schools with overcrowded classrooms, a state that ranks at the bottom in per-pupil expenditures, conditions that impede a teacher’s ability to teach and a student’s ability to learn,” asserted Warne. “And how can you perpetuate that canard when there are large corporations and industries that pay little or no taxes in our state?”

For years, the K-12 education budget has absorbed hundreds of millions of dollars in cuts. This time the system has been strained for so long that the results of further cuts could be catastrophic and fatal to Nevada’s schools. “The legislature is turning its back on finding a revenue source to solve this budget crisis. Instead they are looking to students and educators to make more sacrifices,” added Warne. “This is irresponsible, unfair and will be catastrophic to our kids. Legislators continue to ignore the real cause of the problem and fail to find a solution.”

NSEA, who represents more than 28,000 teachers and education support professionals in Nevada, is hosting a State of the State Watch Party Monday, Feb. 8 to provide a venue for members and supporters to stand up together as Governor Gibbons lays out his plan of attack on public education.

***Below and continued on the next page is a transcript of NSEA President Lynn Warne’s testimony***

Madame Chairwoman, members of the Committee... for the record my name is Lynn Warne, President of the Nevada State Education Association and I am here today to represent the 28,000 Nevada educators who are members of my organization. I’d like to thank you for some of the comments made this morning. Some of them were spot on. We understand the reality of the fiscal crisis facing the state. I want to be clear from the outset ... there are those who we have heard say that cuts for education are a foregone conclusion. That is an unacceptable argument to the educators of Nevada. The K-12 education budget has absorbed hundreds of millions of dollars in cuts already and I come here today to tell you loudly and clearly ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.

I come here today to remind you of your responsibility and obligation to the schoolchildren, parents, and educators to provide the funding necessary for a proper education. Our kids, parents, and teachers have been told for years that we have to learn to do more with less, tighten our belts, make sacrifices and that maybe in the future things will get better. Well, things haven’t improved and now you are asking an already strained system to absorb even more devastation. But this time will be different. This time the system has been strained for so long that the results of further cuts could be catastrophic and fatal to our schools.

For the past couple of years it has been fashionable among politicians to demand that “we can do better” and we need “parental involvement” and “teacher accountability”. Nice campaign slogans, but if you really care about our kids and their education then how can you sit back and watch more kids jammed into fewer classes with less teachers and programs like art, music, and sports eliminated from their curriculum and still suggest to your constituents that you are doing the best you can?

And I must tell you that we all are tired of the hand-wringing and the seemingly rehearsed response “there is no appetite for taxes”. Well, there is even less of an appetite for schools with overcrowded classrooms, a state that ranks at the bottom of per-pupil expenditures, kids who can’t learn and teachers who can’t teach.

And how can you perpetuate that canard when there are large corporations and industries that pay little or no taxes in our state?

Courage and leadership. Two very important words. How many times have we seen those words on political fliers and advertisements? But those two words represent exactly what we expect of you and what our state needs during this crisis.

So, it has come to this. You have been entrusted by your constituents to ensure that our schools have the funding they need to educate their kids. The time for posturing, finger pointing, and excuses is past. The choices seem clear and stark. You can lay off teachers, shorten the school year, or raise revenue.

Courage and Leadership...it's what our kids need!

## Reaction to IFC Hearing Talking Points 2.4.10

- The discussion that took place today at the Interim Finance Committee hearing was disheartening to say the least. The groups that should've been there offering their contributions to solving the crisis were notably absent.
- Instead, lawmakers heard testimony from education leaders including NSEA President Lynn Warne, who eloquently pleaded with them to solve this funding crisis without hurting our kids.
- For years, the K-12 education budget has absorbed hundreds of millions of dollars in cuts. This time the system has been strained for so long that the results of further cuts could be catastrophic and fatal to our schools.
- We keep hearing, "there is no appetite for taxes." Well, there is even less of an appetite for schools with overcrowded classrooms, a state that ranks at the bottom in per-pupil expenditures, conditions that impede a teacher's ability to teach and a student's ability to learn.
- And WHY...when there are large corporations and industries that pay little or no taxes in our state?
- The legislature is turning its back on finding a revenue source to solve this budget crisis; instead they are looking to students and educators to make more sacrifices. This is irresponsible, unfair and will be catastrophic to our kids.
- Courage and Leadership...it's what our kids need!

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**You can help by contacting your legislators (see details on the next page) and attending rallies on 2/9/10 and 2/13/10 to support Nevada's public schools (see the flyers on pages 5 and 6)**

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## **Education Funding is UNDER ATTACK!**

Education is UNDER ATTACK! Programs are at stake! Jobs are at stake!

Elected officials and candidates are playing political football with our profession and livelihood! The proposals that are floating out there are irresponsible, unfounded, and could be catastrophic if adopted by state legislators.

Lawmakers need to hear from you directly on how these cuts would impact your work and your students if you're an educator and your children if you're a parent. Your REAL story is what will make the difference!

Please contact your legislators today. Call 1-800-992-0973 or click the link below to send them your message today...because we can't take a gamble on our future!

**To contact your legislators today click on this link:**

<http://www.capwiz.com/nea/nv/issues/alert/?alertid=14561886&type=ST>

## **Legislators and Media Need to Hear From Parents Too!**

NSEA urges parents to also get involved in speaking out on personal impact of severe budget cuts. Below are some key points to ask parents to use in crafting their message to legislators and/or the media.

- \* Education is UNDER ATTACK!
- \* Education funding has become a political football for elected officials and candidates.
- \* Some of their proposals include catastrophic cuts to K-12 public education.
- \* Politicians should not be balancing the budget on the backs of our kids.
- \* These cuts would hurt my children's school.
- \* PLEASE INSERT SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF HOW THIS WOULD HURT YOUR CHILD/DREN.
- \* You can STOP this from happening! Please protect our kids and do not cut funding!

The Nevada State Education Association

*Presents...*

## **Courage and Leadership ...It's What Our Kids Need!**

A rally of support for Nevada's public schools

*Join us...*

Tuesday, February 9, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. \*

Saturday, February 13, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.\*\*

Join Nevada's educators in Northern Nevada to show your support for public education. Thousands of educators' jobs are at risk!

Tell legislators to leave education funding alone. Children still attend school regardless of the troubled economy.

Please come and tell your story. Share with legislators how the Governor's drastic cuts will hurt your kids, your school, and the future of Nevada's most precious resource . . . ITS CHILDREN!



### **Northern Nevada**

\*Feb. 9 5:00-7:00 p.m.  
Nevada Legislative Building  
Carson City, NV

\*\*Feb. 13 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.  
Reno City Hall, City Council Chambers  
1 First Street  
Reno, NV

For more information please visit  
[www.nsea-nv.org](http://www.nsea-nv.org)

The Nevada State Education Association

*Presents...*

## **Courage and Leadership ...It's What Our Kids Need!**

A rally of support for Nevada's public schools

*Join us...*

Tuesday, February 9, 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 13, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Join Nevada's educators outside of the Grant Sawyer Building to show your support for public education. Thousands of educators' jobs are at risk!

Tell legislators to leave education funding alone. Children still attend school regardless of the troubled economy.

Please come and tell your story. Share with legislators how the Governor's drastic cuts will hurt your kids, your school, and the future of Nevada's most precious resource . . . ITS CHILDREN!



### **Grant Sawyer Government Building**

555 East Washington Avenue  
Las Vegas, Nevada

For more information please visit  
[www.nsea-nv.org](http://www.nsea-nv.org)