From: Sara Quintana
To: SPCSA Public Comment

Subject:Public Comment - August 25, 2023Date:Thursday, August 24, 2023 4:37:36 PM

<u>WARNING</u> - This email originated from outside the State of Nevada. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Hello my name is Sara Quintana and I am providing written testimony as I am unable to attend this meeting due to illness. Specifically, my comment is in regard to agenda item 11 e- the charter application for Thrive Point Academy of Nevada.

As an educator serving the Nevada community for over 10 years, I urge you to support and approve Thrive Point Academy of Nevada's charter application. Thrive Point's academic alternative education model is one that is responsive to the needs of the overall community and both their charter management organization and founding principal demonstrate years of successful experience working with the target population.

Within the Las Vegas Metro area, over 210,000 adults have not obtained a high school diploma or equivalent. Annually, around 20% of public school district seniors are not graduating with their peers. Troublingly, as most recently reported in the Las Vegas Sun, the largest Southern Nevada public school credit retrieval program reported a completion rate of 0% despite serving a population over 1,800 students. As such, specialized credit retrieval services that meet the holistic needs of the target population, allowing students to complete their high school requirements while also providing viable pathways toward industry training conducive to gainful employment are critical. Comparable secondary operators that also utilize a restorative justice model have reported success rates over 80% and similar results from Thrive Point Academy are anticipated.

While there are many charter operators throughout the state, Thrive Point Academy of Nevada stands out as the embodiment of a community centered model that utilizes partnerships to ensure students' fundamental needs are met. By willfully enacting the change they wish to see, Thrive Point stands strong in the battle to end the cycle of generational poverty among our most marginalized students. I once again urge the Nevada State Public Charter School Authority to approve Thrive Point's charter application. The unique services and model they offer are direly needed.