

EXHIBIT 8

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Patrick Gavin:

I want to thank this body for your indulgence in this conversation. I appreciate the thoughtful questions and feedback. We think this is a really strong bill. I want to emphasize that Senate Bill 460 deals with the question of how to hold a school that is serving a large alternative population accountable. We have taken pains in working with sponsor of that bill, Senator Harris, Chair of the Senate Committee on Education, to ensure that these elements are aligned. To the degree that we did have a school that was serving an alternative population, they would not be subject to an arbitrary catch-22 situation. We do not want to do that; we want to make sure that we are making thoughtful and judicious decisions. To that end, we have also endeavored to make sure that anything above that "three strikes and you are out" level is discretionary on the part of the Authority or sponsor board so that we can take into account those kinds of nuances. I would submit, however, that in cases where a school has a 27 or a 37 percent graduation rate and is not classified as an alternative school, that is the kind of thing I think we would all agree is not acceptable and that we need to ensure that we are looking very carefully at why that is and if there is some kind of compelling explanation, certainly taking that into account, but also holding any school that is at that level accountable.

Chair Woodbury:

I will close the hearing on S.B. 509 (R2). Is there anyone here for public comment?

Peggy Lear Bowen, Private Citizen, Carson City, Nevada:

From yesterday's *Reno Gazette-Journal*, this is a letter to the editor that was titled "Tax drama over schools not warranted." It is from David Barrett of Reno.

What is all this hoopla about Nevada's education being among the worst in the nation? Not so, says the "Report Card on American Education, 19th Edition" published by the American Legislative Exchange Council, dated 2014. Have we all been misled? So what is all this drama about raising taxes because Nevada is supposedly among the worst in education in the nation? Nevada is ranked number 12.

In 2011, you all worked very hard to create a better situation than you had found. You gave all sorts of direction. Yesterday during testimony we heard that the Washoe County School District only has one school that is a one-star school left in its entire system. Let the corrections you have made come to fruition in their complexity. If you want to have public charter schools play a more definitive role, please keep them in terms of being embraced by the school districts that want to embrace them to give additional schools with