

**MORSE ARBERRY JR.**

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# State of Nevada Assembly

Seventy-Fourth Session

April 10, 2007

The Honorable Jim Gibbons  
Governor  
Capitol Building  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Dear Governor Gibbons:

I must respectfully submit that your response to my letter regarding education funding totally missed the point I was making. The bottom line is this: your proposed budget only allocates \$13 million in *enhancements* to K-12 education, compared to \$52 million in enhancements to higher education and \$99 million in enhancements to human services.

Enhancements to K-12 education, as defined in my letter, are new monies appropriated to improve the quality of our public schools through new programs—not money allocated for equipment purchases, cost of living adjustments provided to all personnel, or growth in student enrollment. To truly improve our public schools, we cannot be satisfied with the status quo. Your proposed budget, with only \$13 million in enhancements, does not begin to make the commitment we need for innovative programs to truly improve the quality of education in our classrooms.

I would also point out that the \$81 million you say you have allocated in “new state money” only replaces a projected shortfall in local funding and was necessary to make the budget “whole” in order to finance what you originally proposed. Your only alternative to replacing the shortfall in local revenues would have been to cut the education budget by an additional staggering \$81 million. Let’s make no mistake, this \$81 million is not “new” money and does not change the overall level of funding for our schools from what you originally proposed. To imply so is disingenuous.

In short, Governor, we believe our kids deserve better. We believe when it comes to funding our schools, the status quo is simply not adequate. We need to make a wise investment in our schools NOW, and I again am calling on you to revamp your budget to truly put education first and make *improving* our schools through enhanced funding a real priority.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MORSE ARBERRY JR.", written over a light gray rectangular background.

MORSE ARBERRY JR.

Assemblyman

Clark District 7

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