

Oppose Bill that Reduces Parental Control over Education

A message from Barbara Dragon and Mike Smith

Dear NHN and HSLDA Members and Friends:

From: Barbara Dragon, NHN Officer, in partnership with Mike Smith, HSLDA President

Bill: AB 186 (by Diaz)—lowers compulsory school attendance age from 7 to 5, makes kindergarten mandatory at age 5 and requires all school districts to provide prekindergarten for 4 year-olds in every public elementary school.

Position: Strongly *oppose*

Status: As introduced

Summary of Concern

Under current law, parents can choose to have their child skip kindergarten and begin at the 1st grade at age 6 or even 7 if appropriate for the child as determined by the parent. **If AB 186 were to pass, it would eliminate this current parental choice by mandating that every child attend school by age 5.** This would go into effect at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year.

Under AB 186, parents who would have chosen to delay their child's entrance into formal education and skip kindergarten would be forced to start their children's formal education **two years earlier**, before they feel it is best for their child.

The requirements of AB 186 would apply to pupils in public and private schools, as well as homeschools.

Advocates of extending government control over all children from birth will be able to use passage of AB 186 as a step toward establishing seamless, cradle-to-grave government-controlled education and development programs for all children.

Opposition Points

Parents, not the state, should decide *when their children are ready to attend school*. The current age of 7 gives parents that opportunity. Many children are simply not ready to attend school at age 5 or even 6. However, for those parents who wish their child to attend school, the opportunity to do so already exists under current Nevada law. Choice in Education must include *when* as well as *where*.

Lowering the compulsory attendance age from 7 to 5 will create an undue financial burden on parents who intend to enroll their child in private school but wish to choose to wait until their child turns 7. These parents will now be forced by state law to enroll their child one or two years earlier than planned or submit paperwork to homeschool their child at age 5 even if they determine their child is not ready for school. Homeschooling parents would be required to start their children's formal education at age 5 as well.

Requiring school districts to provide prekindergarten in every elementary school usurps local control of education and will create an undue financial burden for Nevada. There are no proven studies showing kindergarten promotes long-term educational success. To the contrary, [research indicates](#) that early education does not improve a child's potential for being a better student in the future, because early gains disappear in a few years. Further, funding for other educational services vital to current public school students will be depleted.

Action Requested

Thank you to all who have contacted your Assembly members and voiced your concerns regarding AB 186, but we need ALL OF YOU to respond to this new action request to STOP this attempt by the state to get ALL children in school at five years of age. Please forward this email onto your friends and relatives as this affects all families in NV not just homeschoolers. Please GO to the Nevada Legislative Opinion page and vote your opposition to this bill [here](#). In addition, it is vitally important that you leave a COMMENT. Your comments will be viewed by lawmakers. The author of this bill may consider withdrawing it if there is enough opposition.

Thank you for your action to preserve this vital right of parental choice in Nevada. You are also encouraged to join us in the fight to homeschool in Nevada and around the world by becoming a member, just click on the join button below.



Barbara Dragon, NHN Officer



Mike Smith
HSLDA PRESIDENT



PS: We greatly value you and your support—it is a privilege to serve you! If you or someone you know is not a member of NHN and HSLDA, will you consider taking a moment today to join or recommend us? Your support for our work enables us to defend individual families and protect homeschooling freedom for all.

NHN members receive a discount on HSLDA membership so please join both organizations today!

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