



Nevada Homeschool Network

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To: Senator Bob Beers
Senator Warren Hardy
Assemblyman Brooks Holcomb

Date: August 27, 2006

Re: Augenblick, Palaich and Associates Study

Dear Legislator,

Please vote "no" on the Augenblick, Palaich and Associates Study when it comes before the Legislative Committee on School Financing Adequacy.

You may recall that Nevada Homeschool Network recently commissioned a study detailing the Budgetary Impact of Homeschooling in Nevada. The bottom line was a net gain for Nevada's school districts of \$25.9 to \$42.7 million due to home and private schooled students. A small percentage of homeschooled children take classes and sports in a local public school allowing some small return for the taxes being paid by their parents.

Unfortunately, the picture isn't as clear for parents who homeschool a special needs child that seek help from their local district. Some districts, such as Clark and Lyon, allow these children to get any of the services they need. Other districts, however, illegally refuse services for these children. Federal law provides Federal funding and requires the districts to disseminate these funds, but many districts are not following Federal law and regulations.

At the past two State Board of Education meetings we've requested the Board to instruct the Department of Education to write regulations clarifying the Federal dictates for the districts. An unexpected and un-understood hostility and opposition from the DoE has caused the State Board to stall the request. A similar request for the State Board to create a homeschool seat on the Federally mandated Special Education Advisory Council was also stalled.

Nevada Homeschool Network believes that the public school system has become so huge that some on the State Board and in the DoE have forgotten or shunned their responsibilities towards non-public schooled children. They are not fulfilling their Federal fiduciary responsibility. We believe that pumping yet more money into the public school coffers will exasperate the problem, not lessen it. Please vote "no".

Sincerely,

Elissa Wahl
Nevada Homeschool Network, Chair

Frank Schnorbus
Nevada Homeschool Network, Vice-Chair