



May 2, 2013

The Honorable Governor Brian Sandoval  
State Capitol Building  
101 N. Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89410

Dear Governor Sandoval,

By way of introduction, Nevada Homeschool Network (NHN) advocates for Nevada families who have chosen to direct the education of their children. In this capacity, we are writing today to oppose SB 182 as introduced.

**Among other things, SB 182 will lower the compulsory attendance age for entry into school from 7 to 5 years of age.** This requirement will apply to all children, whether their parents plan to send them to public school or private school or homeschool.

We have several concerns with SB 182 as introduced and currently amended:

- **We hold that Nevada parents should decide when their child is ready to attend school, not the government.** The current age of 7 gives parents that opportunity. Many children are simply not ready at age 5. 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” should include “when” as well as “where”.***
- **Requiring school districts to provide all-day Kindergarten in every elementary school is not in the best interests of Nevada children and will create an undue financial burden for the state.** There are no proven studies showing a benefit of all-day Kindergarten for the long-term educational success of the child. Further, funding for other educational services vital to current public school students will be depleted.
- **Lowering the compulsory attendance age from 7 to 5, with an exemption for age 5 only, will create an undue financial burden on parents who intend to enroll their child in private school but may wish to choose to wait until their child turns 7.** These parents will now be forced by state law to enroll them a year earlier than planned or submit paperwork to homeschool their child even if the child is not ready for school.

**Article II, Section 2 of the Nevada Constitution** states, “...the legislature may pass such laws as will tend to secure a general attendance of the children in each school district upon said public schools.” The key here is tend to secure a general attendance which we believe is met under current law. **Therefore, NHN requests that SB 182 be amended to leave the compulsory attendance age at 7-18 and protect the right of all Nevada parents to determine when their child is ready for school.**

Respectfully,

Frank Schnorbus, Chair

Elissa Wahl, Vice-Chair

NHN Officers: Barbara Dragon, Kelley Millard Radow, Laura Siegal, & Ray Poole