

NSEA Statement of Support for Senator Joyce Woodhouse

The Nevada State Education Association stands proudly with public education champion Joyce Woodhouse and condemns the cynical and wasteful recall attempt launched against her.

Senator Joyce Woodhouse has been a champion for kids and public education her entire career and has proven to be exactly the kind of public servant we need in Nevada.

Joyce Woodhouse taught first-grade for 17 years and was active in advocating for Nevada students as a past president of the Nevada State Education Association. Joyce's experience in the classroom, with her association, as a principal, and as a school administrator has given her a deep understanding of the needs of students, educators, and parents.

Joyce brought her lifelong commitment for public education to the Nevada Senate where she is serving her third term. Senator Woodhouse quickly established herself as the Nevada Legislature's foremost expert on education issues. During the 2015 legislative session, Joyce fought for new revenue to put badly needed resources into classrooms across the state while increasing standards and accountability for education spending. She fought to expand STEM education in Nevada schools, improve teacher training and professional development, and increase programs for schools serving low-income families.

At times during the 2017 legislative session, it seemed like all good things started with Joyce Woodhouse. Senator Woodhouse chaired the powerful Senate Finance Committee and used her position to launch an incredible number of pro-public education proposals. On behalf of NSEA, Woodhouse sponsored and passed two pieces of legislation, SB303 (requiring an audit and streamlining of state student assessments) and SB386 (strengthening and expanding the progressive student discipline system.) Senator Woodhouse also orchestrated the passage of SB552 to address healthcare costs for hundreds of retired educators and was the primary sponsor of SB200 (computer education), SB241 (STEM/STEAM program), and SB548 (establishing the Nevada Institute on Teaching and Educator Preparation). Joyce also was an excellent steward of the budget process, ensuring that Nevada's public schools received tens of millions of additional dollars in programs designed to increase equity and improve the quality of education for every student.

For all her work during the 2017 session, Senator Woodhouse earned the cover of NSEA's magazine *Perspectives* and the title of "Champion of Public Education."

NSEA agrees with Senator Woodhouse that this recall attempt is "an abuse of the recall process by individuals who are unfortunately still bitter about the results of the last election." And as editor and columnist Jon Ralston wrote, "Elected officials should be targets of recalls for obvious malfeasance. There is no evidence of malfeasance by Woodhouse." NSEA agrees-- the recall process should be reserved for officeholders who have violated the public trust, not used as a Machiavellian political maneuver by those who lost an election, have a difference in policy positions, or simply hold a grudge.

NSEA will be asking our 1328 members and all other residents in Senate District 5 who support strong public schools to stand with Joyce Woodhouse and not sign any recall petition.