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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NSEA Statement on Senate Republican Lawsuit Challenging The Safe and Supportive Schools Act (SB551)**

(Las Vegas/Reno, NV) - July 20, 2019. "At a time when Nevada continues to rank near the bottom of states in most metrics, including per-pupil funding, class size, and overall quality, Senate Republicans are trying to remove even more money from our public schools," said Brian Rippet, President of the Nevada State Education Association. "Should Senate Republicans succeed with this lawsuit, it will mean nothing but harm for our students, our educators, and our schools."

NSEA supported The Safe and Supportive Schools Act during the Legislative Session, as it maintained business tax rates so Nevada could continue its efforts to sufficiently fund public education. The bill added money to the budget to help offset the costs of educator raises and included additional funding for school safety recommendations. Further, the bill eliminated the voucher scheme language so that public tax dollars stay in our public schools. As such, NSEA cannot support any action that would eliminate or overturn The Safe and Supportive Schools Act.

Our elected officials on both sides of the aisle should be focused on how to adequately fund education. The Nevada Constitution requires all public schools receive adequate funding to fulfill their duty to educate every Nevada student. NSEA will continue our work to make sure Nevada moves the needle to provide adequate funding for the basic operation of our public schools, ensuring every Nevada student has access to a high-quality public education.

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The Nevada State Education Association represents teachers, education support professionals, and other licensed professionals across the state.