



The Capitol Reporter

JANUARY 30, 2009

Volume 1 | Issue 2

2009 LEGISLATURE

www.nsea-nv.org

Important Dates:

Jan. 20 – Inauguration Day

Feb. 2 – First day of session

The Capitol Reporter is published by NSEA
3511 E. Harmon Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89121

[To unsubscribe click here](#)

NSEA Responds to Governor Gibbons' Proposal to Axe State Workers' Salaries

"Abandon your plan to cut public employees' salaries!"

Prior to delivering his state of the state address last Thursday, Governor Gibbons sent a letter to state employee groups announcing his plans to seek to cut public employees' salaries by six percent. Below is the response that NSEA sent today. Please urge your members to contact the governor and tell him to abandon his proposal as well as legislators urging them to not support the governor's irresponsible approach to balancing the budget. Log on to www.nsea-nv.org for contact information.

January 20, 2009

Governor Jim Gibbons
State Capitol
101 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Governor Gibbons,

Last week you sent a letter to all state employees, thanking them for their service but informing them you would need to cut their salaries by 6%. Additionally, you have proposed to withhold funding for step increases which reward our educators for their experience and added knowledge and skills. The Nevada State Education Association, which represents more than 28,000 education employees across the state of Nevada, is extremely disappointed that you would choose to balance Nevada's budget on the backs of our educators.

In your State of the State address, you mentioned that you "will not unfairly balance this budget on the backs of those in our society who can least afford to shoulder the burden." It is common knowledge that educators' salaries are low. We are currently unable to recruit the necessary number of highly qualified educators, so our schools open each school year with hundreds of vacancies left unfilled. Additionally, because of low salaries and poor working conditions, our most experienced educators leave the profession for higher paying jobs. Your proposed cuts to the salaries of those who we entrust our children will only exacerbate this problem.

We are sensitive to the economic conditions in the state and in the country, but we also believe that responsible solutions can be found for these complex problems during difficult times. Your one-dimensional solutions have included giving big business and mining tax breaks, while telling the educators of Nevada they are to suffer the consequences of your misguided and irresponsible leadership. You once promoted "Education First" yet all you have done for education in the state of Nevada is to propose cuts so deep that irreparable damage will be done to public schools and the quality of life in Nevada will suffer.

In the upcoming legislative session, the NSEA will do all that it can to turn back your cuts. We will fight this not just because of your decision to place undue hardship on Nevada's educators but because Nevada's education system demands better leadership. Working with the legislature and all other interested parties, I am convinced solutions can be found. The NSEA hopes that you will abandon your plan to cut public employees' salaries and, instead, join us and the many other groups who are looking for responsible, workable, and just solutions.

Sincerely,

Lynn Warne
President

