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Office of the Governor

March 16, 2017

Montana Legislature
PO Box 201706
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Montana Lawmakers:

As the Governor of the State of Nevada, I write in support of high quality early childhood education opportunities, specifically House Bill 563 – Establishing a Montana preschool grant program.

Expanding preschool programs for low-income four-year-olds helps open the doors of opportunity to the most vulnerable children in our communities. These programs give our children a chance to succeed academically and, eventually, as they enter the workforce. Investing in high quality preschool programs creates stronger, safer, and more economically vibrant communities. For every dollar spent on these programs, 13 dollars in future savings are added to our local economies.

Preschool programs also support our economy by allowing greater participation in the labor force and reducing absenteeism among working parents. Economists have found that early intervention programs such as preschool have more impact than any other preventative measure, and therefore are a responsible and critical use of state tax dollars.

Nevada is making great progress on investments in early childhood education. The Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council comprises Nevadans from diverse backgrounds who recognize the long-term benefits of investing in preschool. Since the Council's creation in 2013, an increasing number of Nevadans are experiencing these benefits firsthand in their communities.

- The development and implementation of the Silver State Stars Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) to measure and communicate standards of quality;
- 1,665 expanded State Pre-k seats and new full-day seats through the Pre-k Development Grant;
- The statewide implementation of a kindergarten entry assessment; and
- To address the shortage of teachers, the availability of scholarships for associate's and bachelor's degrees through the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Nevada program.

I urge you to consider these benefits when deciding on the future of high quality early childhood education funding and programs.

Sincere regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Sandoval".

BRIAN SANDOVAL
Governor