Introduction

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Respectfully submitted,

Dale A.R. Erquiaga
Task Force Chairman
**Recommendation #1: Adopt an omnibus school safety planning bill.** This would include amendments to Chapter 388 of the Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) which provides for the establishment of school safety teams, committees to develop crisis plans, and the content/requirements of crisis plans, as follows:

1.1 Individual school safety teams should include representation from law enforcement (with allowance for flexibility for rural school districts due to availability of these personnel); that the existing requirement for a counselor be amended to be “school counselor, social worker or mental and behavioral health professional”; and that middle school and high school student voice be included when possible.

1.2 School crisis plans should ensure that drills occur at different times during the school day, for students to be familiar with safe routes to take and procedures to follow in different parts of the school building and under different circumstances – including extracurricular and after school activities (e.g., sporting events). (See also NRS 392.450)

1.3 If not already provided for by law, provide a means for districts to require individualized plans for schools, in lieu of the “one plan to be used by all public schools” in the district to account for significant differences and needs, but at the discretion of the local board.

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1.6 Require the Department of Education to develop a model plan to incorporate the following:
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1.8 Provide authority for the Chief of the Division of Emergency Management to approve, and if necessary randomly audit, plans required to be filed with the Division to ensure compliance with statutory all requirements and may request other agencies to contribute to the plan review, at his/her discretion. The Chief should provide the Department and Legislature annual report of compliance with plans.

1.9 Require the Governor to create a statewide committee on school safety as an additional component of these teams and committees contemplated by this chapter, to include representation from students as well as state and local agencies such as Education, Public Safety, Emergency Management, and Health & Human Services.
a) The statewide committee will provide an avenue for student voice in matters related to their safety and well-being across the state.
b) The statewide committee will explore the impact of social media on school safety and student well-being.
c) The statewide committee may also discuss or make any recommendation reasonably related to the matters addressed in executive order 2018-5, which created this Task Force.

Recommendation #2: Make a significant investment in school-based mental health professionals and services. This commitment includes:

2.1 Amend AB 127 of the 2017 Legislative Session to establish statewide recommended ratios for all school-based mental health providers (school counselors, school psychologists, and school social workers) that align with their respective national association recommended ratios, and require each school district to establish a school-based mental health ratio improvement plan for each of the three professions to achieve this ratio within 15 years; include a definition of each profession and supervision structure as part of the improvement plan; consider including school nurses in this initiative.

2.2 Include school nurses, school counselors, and school psychologists in the Nevada Department of Education pilot Medicaid program and Social Work Block Grant. Enable the Department to use funds (remove)(one new FTE ) (end remove) (add) (two new FTEs) (end add) from the current Social Work Block Grant Program to immediately expand school district capacity for Medicaid billing for behavioral health services (delete) and (end delete) support (add)and a shared medical director (end add)

2.3 Make any necessary changes to ensure sustainability of Safe-Voice and ability of first responders to provide support to students, including:
a) Amend “Safe-to-Tell” to “Safe Voice” in all relevant statutes;
b) Include provisions to ensure the Department of Public Safety has 24 hour access to student information in the event of a SafeVoice tip revealing a health or safety emergency as defined by 24 CFR 99.31(a)(10) and necessary privacy protections are in place to protect student data ; and
c) Addition of one FTE to support Safe Voice within the Safe and Respectful Learning Environments
d) Include a long-term plan for sustainable funding to support local and state level implementation.

Recommendation #3: Make a commitment to ensuring the availability of additional trained school resource officers and school police personnel. This could be implemented by taking the following actions:

3.1 Establish a categorical fund at the State dedicated for this purpose. Applications for funding come through the School Districts and must be made in conjunction with their
school police department or local law enforcement agency, as applicable; applications for charter schools would come through the State Public Charter School Authority (SPCSA).

3.2 Amend Nevada Revised Statutes to categorize school police officers as Category I peace officers [NRS 289.470 and NRS 432B.610].

3.3 Include school police officers in the Nevada definition of "school resource officer."

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3.5 Increase jurisdiction of school police officers to include all property, buildings and facilities beyond school property while investigating matters related to personnel, pupils, or real or personal property of the school district; further expand jurisdiction of school police officers to enforce violations of traffic laws and ordinances 24 hours each day.

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   a) based on “guided autonomy” that includes the school safety assessment to identify school needs, and
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5.1 Proactively integrate Social Emotional Learning (SEL) into the fabric of all Nevada schools to help teachers and students remain motivated to develop skills to navigate and
succeed within their 21st learning communities and to serve as responsible, contributing, and safe members of society.

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