



CONGRESSWOMAN SHELLEY BERKLEY

November 8, 2010



Nevada Dropout Prevention Summit
9890 South Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89183

Dear Friends,

As the Representative for Nevada's First Congressional District, it gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone attending the *2010 Ready for Life Nevada Dropout Prevention Summit*.

As Nevadans we all share in the responsibility for providing our students with a quality education. One area where we must focus this effort is on keeping our young men and women in school through efforts like those that are the goal of this prevention summit. We must also reach out to those students who did not graduate, and make an effort to bring them back into the classroom.

We know that students who do not receive a diploma will earn less than those who graduate, and will have fewer employment opportunities in our 21st Century economy. Strong community involvement is essential in providing students the support they need to achieve academic success and can play a major role in the decision for students to remain in school so they can become ready for life.

As a graduate of Nevada's public education system, I appreciate the challenges that we face in a state that has long struggled with a high dropout rate and the need for more resources in our classrooms and schools. Our future relies on making education a greater priority so that we can provide out students with the ability to compete in a global marketplace.

Thank you for your commitment to bring together community leaders and educators to address this important issue. Best wishes for a successful event.

Sincerely,

SHELLEY BERKLEY
Member of Congress