



STATE OF NEVADA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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Dr. Gene Hall, Chairperson
Nevada Public Education Foundation
9890 S. Maryland Parkway, Suite 243
Las Vegas, Nevada 89183

Dear Dr. Hall:

On behalf of the State of Nevada, I want to extend my support of Nevada Public Education Foundation's Ready for Life movement. Your collaborative efforts to increase the number of youth that graduate from Nevada high schools, and ensure that these youth have a strong and successful connection to the job market by the age of 25 are critical to our state's future.

Nevada is in the middle of a high school drop-out crisis. Currently, only 62% of Nevada's youth graduate high school on time. Research shows that high school dropouts earn less, pay fewer taxes, and are more likely to collect welfare and turn to a life of crime than those who graduate from high school. High school dropouts are 3 ½ times more likely to be arrested and more than 8 times as likely to be incarcerated. Throughout the country, 68% of state prison inmates have not received a high school diploma. Yet, according to research, a 10% increase in graduation rates has historically been shown to reduce murder and assault rates by approximately 20%. In human terms, a 10% increase in graduation rates would prevent 45 murders and over 2,000 aggravated assaults in Nevada each year.

Although I cannot be present at the Ready for Life Nevada Dropout Prevention Summit on November 12, I support these efforts and encourage leaders in the business, education, government, human service and religious communities to step up and take the challenge to help Nevada's youth be Ready For Life. I look forward to learning about the results of the Summit and local efforts, and working with community leaders throughout the state to address this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Catherine Cortez Masto".

CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO
Attorney General