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Office of the Governor

June 5, 2025

The Honorable Francisco Aguilar
Nevada Secretary of State
101 North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Re: Senate Bill 334 of the 83rd Legislative Session

Dear Secretary of State Aguilar:

I am forwarding to you, for filing within the time limit set forth in the Nevada Constitution and without my approval, Senate Bill 334 ("SB 334"), which is titled as follows:

AN ACT relating to correctional institutions; requiring the Director of the Department of Corrections to submit an annual report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau relating to the employment of offenders; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Expanding workforce training for offenders is critical to reducing recidivism and preparing offenders for reentry into Nevada's communities. A study regarding the Department of Corrections' ("NDOC") workforce training programs and employment outcomes for offenders is, unquestionably, a good idea. That said, SB 334 is simply unworkable on its face.

First, the language isn't clear regarding whether the report should include only Prison Industries or all institutional labor, fundamentally obfuscating the scope of the data collection. Second, offender "refusal" to work is not tracked because there is no obligation for offenders to work. Offenders regularly choose not to work to focus on other endeavors like education, enrollment in programming, or attending to ongoing legal demands. Third, the NDOC does not have the capacity or a basis to collect information on individuals after release since those individuals are either supervised by Parole and Probation, or they are unconditionally released and under no legal obligation to report any activities to the NDOC. The NDOC would presumably be forced to rely on information collected by the Department

of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation, which it does not currently have access to and would also be limited to individuals who work in the state of Nevada as W-2 employees. Thus, the information would be severely limited in accuracy. Finally, Prison Industries is designed to prepare offenders for successful re-entry by teaching job skills that translate to the workforce. The intention is not to ensure offenders obtain employment in the exact field they worked in while incarcerated.

Since SB 334 would be create a reporting requirement with which it is inherently infeasible for the NDOC to comply and the reasons discussed above, I cannot support it. I encourage those in favor of the type of study proposed by this bill to collaborate with the NDOC during the interim to consider a study that will be possible for the NDOC to conduct and also produce substantive results regarding the NDOC's workforce training programs and post-release employment outcomes.

For these reasons, I veto this bill and return it to you without my signature or approval.

Respectfully submitted,



JOE LOMBARDO

Governor of Nevada

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Stavros Anthony, President of the Senate (without enclosure)
The Honorable Nicole Cannizzaro, Senate Majority Leader (without enclosure)
The Honorable Steve Yeager, Speaker of the Assembly (without enclosure)
The Honorable Francisco Aguilar, Secretary of State (without enclosure)
Brendan Bucy, Secretary of the Senate (without enclosure)
Bonnie Borda Hoffecker, Chief Clerk of the Assembly (without enclosure)
Diane Thornton, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Director (without enclosure)
Asher Killian, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Legislative Counsel (without enclosure)