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## **Clark County Teacher Makes Case for Saying NO to Budget Cuts *Schools Budget Heard in Carson City, Las Vegas***

"Budget cuts to the school district would be detrimental in so many ways!" That was a statement made by Clark County Teacher Kerri Soper as she kicked off her testimony before the joint K-12 Subcommittee of the Nevada Legislature Tuesday morning. The subcommittee, comprised of assemblypersons and senators, heard the Distributive Schools Account (DSA)—the schools budget—which includes millions of dollars in cuts.

"At my school, cuts would most certainly impact direct teacher instruction as class sizes would grow from 20 to even more in grades 1 through 3 and from 35 to more in grades 4 through 5; children would receive less and less individualized instruction. One of the keys to a quality education is the teacher's ability to differentiate school instruction based on a child's need," testified Soper. "Larger class sizes reduce that ability as well as create more opportunities for students to fall through the cracks. This affects the middle schools and high schools even more profoundly because in addition to the large class sizes, they are dealing with not enough desks for every student or books for them to utilize in class and at home."

Soper continued her testimony with the impact of cuts to the students and the classrooms, as well as the impact the cuts would have on her personally.

"On a personal level, the proposed budget cuts would be crippling. As a young, single woman I already struggle to make ends meet. It doesn't help me when I see and hear people making much more than I do in a job that requires limited skills, no college degree, and no mandatory continuing education for salary advancement," added Soper a member of NSEA since 2007. "I strongly believe the proposed budget cuts would require some teachers to leave the district, and for some to leave teaching altogether."

Please support Soper's testimony by sending the subcommittee members your own testimony. Tell them how the proposed budget cuts would hurt your students, the classroom, your worksites, and your life personally. Log on to [www.nsea-nv.org](http://www.nsea-nv.org) and click on the Say NO to Education Cuts graphic. Your voice will be heard!

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