

Applauding Our Future

Senator Valerie Wiener

March 4, 2008

Today a fantastic event occurred in the Senate Health and Education Committee. Students from across the state stood up and testified on legislation they themselves created, debated, and are now advocating. These students are participants in the Nevada Youth Legislature and they represent the best of Nevada.

The Nevada Youth Legislative Issue Forum was created by the Nevada Legislature in 2007. This Forum is composed of 21 high-school-age students, each appointed by their respective State Senator. Students are selected by a Nevada Senator, with advice from members of the Nevada State Assembly. Most members serve for one year, though they can be re-appointed.

Aside from gaining firsthand experience with the Legislature, these students actively contribute to the legislative process by developing and lobbying for different legislative initiatives. These young leaders bring a fresh perspective about the issues affecting the future of Nevada. The bill they presented today, SB 77, is the latest example of their work.

SB 77 would authorize the Board of Trustees of each school to create a program for teen mentoring in public high schools in which seniors would mentor freshmen on civic education. The Nevada Youth Legislature is an invaluable opportunity for high school students from across Nevada to participate in the legislative process. This will inspire the next generation of Nevada leaders to serve as civic and community leaders. It is not surprising that their bill would help teach other children important lessons in civic participation. I cannot applaud them enough.

To learn more about the Nevada Youth Legislature, [click here](#).