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Via E-mail

To Jenny Richter Livia, Council Liaison
For the attention of:
Nevada State Rehabilitation Council

Re: Public Comment

As the state agency tasked with assisting individuals with disabilities in obtaining and maintaining competitive, integrated employment, this Agency has consistently fallen short of it's mission. It is long past time for this Council, as the Agency's supervisor, to take a firm stance against the obstructive and counterproductive practices that the Agency continues to employ.

Despite two recent audits – one by the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and the other by the Legislative Auditor – this Agency remains more focused on finding ways to appease regulators, Council Members, clients, their families, and the public than on genuinely addressing the audit recommendations. For nearly 18 years, I have been a client of this Agency, and I have witnessed firsthand its persistent failure to engage in meaningful, collaborative efforts to improve services for the community.

For example, a recent friendly request to include the Agency as part of a bill, Assembly Bill (AB) 539 which would benefit the Agency's K-12 transition activities, as well as a high level of overview of the spending and reversion of these activities in furtherance of ensuring the Agency could actually



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implement the activities requested by the bill as they would specifically apply to the disability community, was aggressively rebuffed.

Even during these unprecedented times, I strongly urge you to engage with your Legislators, both State and Federal, to ensure that the Agency's funding is reduced to \$1 per year of the State biennium, which would effectively deplete its ability to receive its Federal grant. The Agency's obstructive and counterproductive activities would be worth toilet paper \$, below \$0, were each budget process permissive of the same.

In skeletal form, I've raised these concerns before this Council every quarter, and though I may no longer be a client soon, I remain committed to being part of the solution. If there is an opportunity to help bring about meaningful change, I am more than willing to contribute. However, this Agency seems unwilling to do so, which is gut-wrenching for the cumulative population it is entirely charged with representing to the community-at-large.

If finances were permissive, I would gladly be pursuing non-exploitative employment in my home state of New Jersey, as they have their toilet paper together. Knowing everything I know today about Nevada's cumulative service array for people with disabilities, I sincerely wish I'd never followed my folks to this awful State as I began adulthood.

Thank you for your time, and I stand ready for questions.



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