NEVADA GIRLS STATE
ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 17

AN ACT that will implement a 2% tax on tobacco products sold in the state of Nevada that will go towards enhancing and growing the number of school clubs, sports, and vocational classes to keep students more engaged in school and to lower high school dropout rates. If states invest in effective support programs, they can further increase graduation rates and reduce future costs of enforcing compulsory-schooling policies.

SECTION 1: Expanded clubs, sports and vocational classes will give students something to become attached to in school encouraging higher school attendance. Giving students more options in school to be passionate about will help kids make it to their graduation.

SECTION 2: 81% of Nevada students graduate from high school which is 5% below the national average.

SECTION 3: On average, a dropout earns less money, is more likely to be in jail, is less healthy, is less likely to be married, and is unhappier than a high-school graduate.

SECTION 4: Lowering dropout rates will help with the goal of strengthening the state's education system and promote college attendance and improve career outcomes for youth.

SECTION 5: Among recent dropouts, 16% are unemployed and 32% live below the poverty line. Dropouts with jobs earn an average of only $12.75 per hour, with the most common jobs found in the construction, food services, and landscaping industries. Dropouts aged 50 earn an average of $16.50 an hour.

SECTION 6: 33% of recent female dropouts have given birth as a teenager, 13% of male and female dropouts are separated or divorced, 32% report being unhealthy, and 22% report being unhappy, according to data from the 2005–2010 waves of the General Social Survey, which is considered a reliable indicator of societal trends.

SECTION 7: Individuals earn higher wages if they work in regions with fewer dropouts, irrespective of their own level of educational attainment. Crime rates are lower, and civic participation is higher.

SECTION 8: This ACT will be effective upon passage.