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Office of the Governor  
Carson City, NV

April 8, 2010

Governor Jim Gibbons  
101 North Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89701  
Via U.S. Mail and Facsimile

Re: Education Reform Blue Ribbon Task Force

Dear Governor Gibbons:

Thank you very much for your letter. I appreciate the time you took to respond to the issues the ACLU of Nevada brought to your attention.

While the ACLU of Nevada disagrees with your position, and that of the Attorney General, that the Open Meeting Law (“OML”) does not apply to the Education Reform Blue Ribbon Task Force, we are very pleased that the Task Force co-chairs ultimately decided to comply with the OML requirements.

The ACLU of Nevada is also pleased by the recent public dialogue surrounding the important questions raised by our letter and media coverage surrounding the issue. As I noted in my previous letter, and as your letter recognized, public access to the workings of government is fundamental to our democracy and we hope to work towards more openness in Nevada. I have recently accepted an invitation to join an Attorney General-sponsored committee addressing OML issues, and we at the ACLU of Nevada also look forward to further dialogue with you.

In response to your question, as we have noted, our position is that open government principles should extend to the collective bargaining process. While arguments can always be made as to why particular government processes should be excluded from public scrutiny, it is our view that the spirit of the Open Meeting Law and the underlying principles behind it mean that we should support openness except in very rare circumstances—and that neither the business of the Task Force nor the process of collective bargaining merit secrecy.

Again, thank you very much for your letter and we look forward to working with

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