



July 1, 2022

Via email (director@lcb.state.nv.us; admin@lcb.state.nv.us)

Brenda Erdoes
Director, Legislative Counsel Bureau
401 S. Carson St.
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747

Re: Keep Nevada Working Task Force Legislative Report

Dear Director Erdoes:

Assembly Bill 376 was passed in 2021 during the 81st Legislative Session. Sections 16 through 20 of the Bill created the Keep Nevada Working Task Force within the Office of the Lieutenant Governor. Section 20, paragraph 2 of AB 376 requires that the Task Force “submit a written report to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau for submission to the Legislative Commission” on or before July 1, 2022. The Report must include a summary of work, as well as recommendations, if any.

I. Summary of work

AB 376 was [signed into law](#) by Governor Steve Sisolak on June 11, 2021. On September 8, 2021, Governor Sisolak and then-Lt. Governor Kate Marshall announced eight [appointments](#) to the Task Force.

Lt. Governor Lisa Cano Burkhead was appointed as Nevada’s 36th Lt. Governor on December 16, 2021. Following her appointment, Lt. Governor Cano Burkhead prioritized quickly filling three vacancies on the Task Force and convening the Task Force’s first meeting. Today, the Keep Nevada Working Task Force includes the following members of the community:

- 1) Lt. Governor Lisa Cano Burkhead (Chair)
- 2) Maggie Salas Crespo, former Senior Advisor, Office for New Americans (Vice Chair)
- 3) Chris Aguiar, Lieutenant, Henderson Police Department
- 4) Alissa Cooley, Managing Attorney, UNLV Immigration Clinic
- 5) Michael Flores, Director of Government Relations, University of Nevada, Reno
- 6) Bethany Khan, Communications Director, Culinary Union
- 7) Jennie Kim, Clark County AAPI Commission & Adviser for NV AAPI Chamber of Commerce
- 8) Alletha Muzorewa, Workforce Development Expert
- 9) Vince Saavedra, President, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement

The Task Force’s first meeting was held on March 15, 2022. The first action of the Task Force electing Lt. Governor Lisa Cano Burkhead as Chair, and Maggie Salas Crespo as Vice Chair. At this meeting, Task Force members also agreed on dividing themselves into “area experts” in an effort to evenly distribute workload and utilize the expertise of Task Force members. Those areas are: (1) supporting New American workers; (2) education and workforce development; and (3) small business. Additionally,



Charina de Asis, Director of the Office for New Americans, gave an overview at ONA's mission and work in the space of immigrant workforce development.

The Task Force reconvened on May 2, 2022. The purpose of this meeting was to review small business ownership resources available to immigrant communities in Nevada. Michael Cullen, Chief of Staff to Lt. Governor Cano Burkhead, and Melissa Saavedra, Program Manager within the Office of Small Business Advocacy, presented on the new Office of Small Business Advocacy and how its work supports small business ownership within immigrant communities. Additionally, Task Force member Jennie Kim provided an overview of state agencies beyond OSBA that provide service and assistance to small business owners.

Finally, the Task Force convened on June 29, 2022 to finalize and approve this report.

II. **Moving forward**

The Keep Nevada Working Task Force is looking forward to continue to study and provide recommendations on how Nevada can better support the workforce development of its immigrant communities.

Thus far, the Keep Nevada Working Task Force has identified the following needs:

- More awareness for immigrants, especially high school students, on the availability of union apprenticeship programs;
- A standardized database across state agencies measuring common datapoints;
- An increase in resources made available in languages other than English and Spanish;
- A review of professional licensure requirements for immigrants possessing certain skills in their home countries, especially in high-need areas.

Moving forward, the Task Forces hopes to:

- Lean on the expertise of its members and working groups to identify opportunities to better support Nevada's immigrant population;
- Work with the Governor's Office of Economic Development to identify long-term employment trends;
- Study workforce development best practices across the nation, including but not limited to working with an organization like the National Skills Coalition or similar group, as well as Nevada unions;
- Coordinate further with the Office for New Americans on opportunities to add capacity to each other's work;
- Support immigrant small business owners in partnership with the Office of Small Business Advocacy and other state agencies; and
- Provide input to the Attorney General on publication of its model policies, and request an Attorney General opinion regarding local law enforcement policies on the continued detention of non-citizens for immigration violations.



The Keep Nevada Work Force looks forward to keeping the Legislature apprised of its work, as well as legislative and policy recommendations.

Very respectfully,

Keep Nevada Working Task Force