

**Presentation by Senator Michael Roberson
To the Sun City Anthem Republican Club on June 10, 2017
“The 2017 Nevada Legislative Session”**

The 2017 Legislative Session was the most anti-business and pro-felon legislative session in state history. This is not an exaggeration.

Legislative Democrats pushed a national, Elizabeth Warren Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton agenda. By their actions, they threatened to put business-out of business-and put a hard stop to the great strides Republicans have made in the years since the recession to promote economic development and create jobs.

They tried repeatedly throughout the session to raise your property taxes.

They proposed bill after bill to let Felons out of prison early, to reduce sentences of violent Felons, and to make it easier for Felons to vote, to serve on juries, and to hide a Felon’s criminal history from employers and the general public.

They tried to rollback the entire historic Republican reforms from last session.

And, they made three separate attempts, with three different proposed bills, to turn Nevada into a sanctuary for criminal aliens.

I want to read just a partial list of the dangerous legislation proposed by Democrats this legislative session.

1. Collective Bargaining for State Employees
2. Taxing and banning plastic bags
3. Ending Nevada’s energy independence by banning Fracking

4. Allowing Home Intruders to sue the Homeowner Victim
5. Ban the Death Penalty
6. Taxpayer-funded abortions and abortion drugs
7. Forced Paid-Sick leave on Small Businesses
8. \$12, \$14, and \$15 minimum wage
9. Pre-Crime Bill to take guns away from law-abiding citizens
10. Tried to drive Uber and Lyft out of Nevada
11. Imposed higher prevailing wage on school construction
12. Rollback of construction defect reform
13. Rollback of collective bargaining reform
Rollback of Project Labor Agreement reforms-hurting non-union builders
14. Rollback of prevailing wage reforms-hurting taxpayers
15. Rollback of paid-union time reform
16. Tried to raise your property taxes
17. Rollback of lobbyist gift ban
18. Felon voting rights for dishonorably discharged Felons
19. Felons serving on juries
20. Felons having their records sealed
21. Ford wanted to let Felons vote from prison, like in Vermont
22. National Popular Vote-state compact
23. Harry Reid Airport
24. Sanctuary State
25. Marijuana Lounges
26. PERS Non-Transparency

The good news is they failed to accomplish much of any of their extreme goals this session. Republicans were able to kill many bills before they ever got to the Governor's desk and through yesterday, Governor Sandoval has vetoed 35 bills, with more to come in the next few days.

In fact, the end result of this session was a success for Republicans.

The Senate Republican Caucus had three primary goals as we entered this legislative session: (1) fund Educational Savings Accounts; (2) stop any increases in property tax rates; and (3) prevent any rollbacks of our historic 2015 legislative reforms. So, what was the result?

We successfully stopped any and all attempts to raise property taxes on Nevadans.

We aggressively fought and killed in the legislature or ensured that Governor Sandoval would veto any rollbacks of our historic education reforms, labor union reforms, tort reforms and economic development reforms from last session.

Finally, while we were unable to achieve funding for ESAs this legislative session - a disappointment not only for us but for the thousands of children who applied-we were able to obtain a \$20 million expansion of the Opportunity Scholarship program. The Opportunity Scholarship program is a tuition voucher program for students whose family earns 300% or below the poverty line. With the program now reaching \$33 million over the biennium, we more than tripled the original funding for school choice approved last biennium.

The Democrats predicted they would have a historic session, and they were correct -- this is the first time in history a Democrat-controlled legislature has ever expanded school choice. Last session, not a single Senate Democrat would vote for school choice. This session, every single Senate Democrat voted to expand school choice. This is real progress and we appreciate the bipartisanship on this very important cause.

In addition to our three primary goals, we protected our communities by blocking the Democrats from implementing much of their pro-felon agenda. We prevented Democrats from making Nevada a Sanctuary State for violent criminal aliens. We made our schools safer by cracking down on sexual predators. We stopped an assault on the 2nd amendment rights of law-abiding Nevadans by killing several anti-2nd Amendment bills. We locked into statute the Reorganization for CCSD. We passed several bills this session to protect seniors from guardianship abuse. I want to give a special thanks to Rana Goodman and Dan Roberts for their great leadership on this issue. And, we were able to put Marsy's Law, a constitutional amendment protecting victims' rights, on the 2018 ballot.

In addition to blocking the Democrats' pro-felon agenda, we worked with the business community to thwart the most anti-employer and anti-jobs agenda in Nevada history. We also made sure Democrats were unsuccessful in trying to drive Uber and Lyft out of the state. Because of the work of Senate and Assembly Republicans, and despite having legislative minorities in each chamber, Nevada will continue to be a very business-friendly state and we will continue to be well-positioned as a national leader in job growth and economic development.

As we head into the 2018 election cycle, we now know just how much is at stake. We must continue to have a Republican in the Governor's Mansion, to serve as a final backstop to prevent the Nevada Democratic Party's new extreme agenda. And, we must do all we can to elect Republican Majorities in the Senate and Assembly.

With that, I want to thank you all again for having me here today and I'm happy to take questions.