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SEP 17 2020
ELIZABETH A. BROWN
CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

AOKT 567

Dear Justices of the Supreme Court,

I am writing on behalf of the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada in support of Exhibit A relating to mediation of residential summary evictions. Nevadans are in need across our state as they continue to experience dramatic unemployment and other residual effects of a severe economic recession under COVID-19.

Supporting mediation works to mitigate these negative consequences while limiting threats to public health and safety. Preventing and settling eviction matters during the COVID-19 crisis through alternate dispute resolution will support struggling Nevadans through increasing access to rental assistance and making up for the state's unemployment backlog issues.

Mediation provides a way for tenants, who often feel helpless in the face of eviction, to be on equal footing with landlords and property owners. Resolution benefits all parties, as landlords directly receive rental assistance, and tenants in need across Nevada can avoid the negatively cascading effects attributed to an eviction record or houselessness under COVID-19. Exhibit A will give every Nevadan the opportunity to elect into mediation prior to an eviction hearing.

Costly litigation should not be the sole arbiter of whether or not an individual is deserving of access to justice; this mediation program must be available to all tenants, and all tenants who respond to an eviction notice should be able to elect mediation.

Sincerely,

Christine Saunders, MSW
Policy Director
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada

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CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

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