Greetings Lieutenant Governor,

Lieutenant Governor Burkhead, I chair the Statewide Independent Living Council Subcommittee on Integrated Workforce Development. During the pandemic our committee has examined new work options that have opened opportunities for Nevadans with disabilities.

Before these new options appeared Nevadans with disabilities had limited options for meaningful employment. This constituency has been dependent on the private and public sectors to created jobs that include accommodations for diverse employees with a range of abilities. This leaves disabled workers waiting for employment to open that meet their needs, and, even when this happens, in some cases, these jobs pay a sub-minimum wage, which makes it very difficult for Nevadans with disabilities to achieve a desired level of self-sufficiency.

Due to these issues, we were very interested in Assembly Bill 184 in the 2019 legislative session. This bill created a Temporary Office of Small Business Advocacy in the Lt. Governor’s Office. During legislative hearings, former Lt. Governor Kate Marshall testified that her office would use the new law to provide free services for any Nevadan wishing to start a small business or nonprofit organization. We assumed this would also include helping Nevadans become independent contractors.

Working independently from home eliminates travel issues and provides members of our community the power to self-manage their work while earning a paycheck. This power of self-determination is very important.

Our subcommittee and supporters were very happy when AB184 passed and was signed into law by the Governor, but then, soon after the legislatives session, Lt. Governor Marshall resigned to take a position in Washington, D. C. Based on statements from the Governor we were worried no one would be appointed to complete the Lt. Governor’s term and AB184 would sit unimplemented.

Now that you have been appointed, as constituents, we are reaching out to respectfully ask when we might expect AB184 to be enacted. We are happy and willing to help with the implementation process if needed.

If you would like to meet with the larger SILC committee, we would be thrilled to recommend to the larger committee that it extends an invitation to you.

Thank you for your time and consideration,