



The Nevada Policy Research Institute

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Education Analysts to Question Study's Findings

Dr. Richard Phelps, a nationally recognized education analyst, and Joe Enge of the Nevada Policy Research Institute will testify before a joint session of the Assembly Education and Senate Human Resources and Education committees on Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2006.

The committees will hear the same day a presentation of the Augenblick, Palaich, & Associates Education Financing Adequacy Study, which claims Nevada's public education system was under-funded by \$1.3 billion in 2003-2004. Dr. Phelps and Enge are expected to criticize the study for numerous flaws.

"I'm troubled that the APA study, which Nevada taxpayers financed to the tune of thousands of dollars, is based on false premises and thus leads to erroneous conclusions," Enge said. "I look forward to the opportunity to clarify the record before the legislature."

Dr. Phelps, a top national expert on education financial adequacy studies, was commissioned by NPRI to analyze the APA Adequacy Study, released in August 2006. (See analysis here: www.npri.org/mgraphs/ed_adequacy.pdf.) He and Enge, NPRI's education analyst, testified about multiple inherent flaws in the APA study and its figures upon its release to the Interim Legislative School Financing Adequacy Committee. The committee accepted the APA study without recommendation.

Dr. Phelps, a native of St. Louis, Mo., holds a doctorate in Public Finance from the Wharton School of Commerce and Finance at the University of Pennsylvania, as well as other degrees from Washington, Indiana, and Harvard Universities. He has held posts at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris, the U.S. General Accounting Office, Westat, and Indiana's Education Department.

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