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Subject: Public Comment for OML Task Force 6/5
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Good afternoon,
I would like the following to be added to the 6/5 OML Task Force agenda as public comment. Please let me know if you have any questions.
Thank you,
Adrienne Sawyer

Adrienne Sawyer for the record.

Good morning OML Task Force,

I have some comments on the proposed changed to NRS 241.

I support the proposal for a minimum time of 3 minutes for public comment. Currently the Douglas County School Board limits public comment to 90 seconds at the beginning of the meeting on agenda ACTION items only and 90 seconds at the end, on anything NOT on the agenda. The Board then packs the agenda full of items of great public interest, knowing 90 seconds limits public comment on those items. They also list items as “information or discussion only” circumventing public comment all together.

I appreciate that the language specifies that during EACH period of public comment, speakers have 3 minutes. That ensures Boards do not break the 3 minutes up into 90 seconds for the first and 90 seconds for last comment period.

If I understand correctly, “contested cases” applies only to those defined by 233b. I appreciate this distinction so Boards can not curb public comment by saying any legal issues are off limits to public comment.

As I understand 241.0353, ANY statement made by a Board member is protected. I am concerned that additional language to protect Board members from public comment, could be used to silence the public’s right to speak. Board members already have protection the public does not. I understand it is not easy to be a member of a public body, but they should not be shielded from their own words and actions during public comment. I am against any language that could be used by a Board to deny or limit public comment.

Thank you for your time.

Adrienne Sawyer