

OCTOBER 28, 2019

ALEX BYBEE

**Dear Washoe County School District School Naming Committee,**

I write this letter to express my support to name the new high school at Wildcreek in honor of the late Senator Debbie Smith.

As an alumni of The Coalition to Save Our Schools — the community campaign that advocated for passage of WC-1 — I have great respect for the vision, passion, and commitment that Senator Smith showed to ensure that question reached the ballot. Her spirit was ever present in all of the advocacy, organizing and fundraising so many leaders did to get WC-1 across the finish line. She is the reason we are here to deliberate this choice today.

The fifteen schools that are being built are a fitting swan song for a leader who dedicated their life's work to our children. I encourage the committee to preserve the legacy of a person whose memory serves as an exemplar of public service to all of us — and most importantly for the young people who will benefit from knowing her story.

Should you have any further questions regarding this letter of support, you may reach me at any time via the contact information below.

**Yours, in partnership,**



**Alex Bybee**

October 28, 2019

Dear Washoe County Naming Committee:

I am writing in support of naming your new high school for Debbie Smith. I do not currently live in Washoe County but I am very familiar with Debbie and her consistent push for improved educational opportunities for all of Nevada's children.

Having grown up in a rural area and raising her kids in Sparks, Debbie had a unique perspective on educational needs and the obstacles that impeded the ability to meet those needs. She understood not only buildings and maintenance but also curriculum and support programs. She worked tirelessly to inform her community on what she felt was necessary and finish the projects that were started. Debbie listened, researched and acted. She was honest and good and could work with all kinds of people and opinions.

I knew Debbie both personally and professionally. She was a loyal friend and a great resource and advocate for education. She got things done. She made a difference and is worthy of having a school named for her.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Johna Reeves  
Retired Teacher/Counselor  
Battle Mountain High School



October 28, 2019

Mr. Riley Sutton  
School Naming Committee  
Washoe County School District  
425 E. Ninth Street  
Reno, NV 89512

**Robin Vos**  
Assembly Speaker  
Wisconsin  
President, NCSL

**Martha R. Wigton**  
Director  
House Budget & Research  
Office  
Georgia  
Staff Chair, NCSL

**Tim Storey**  
Executive Director

Dear Mr. Sutton:

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) is delighted to encourage the district to name a new Washoe County school after Debbie Smith. The Senator Debbie Smith High School would be a fitting tribute to her legacy of dedication to education, public service and the state of Nevada.

NCSL was incredibly fortunate to have Senator Smith as our president and leader. She was the first Nevada legislator to lead NCSL as president, elected by her legislative peers from around the country in 2014. NCSL is the association of all 50 U.S. state legislatures as well as the territories and the District of Columbia. NCSL is a steadfastly bipartisan organization serving the nation's 7,383 legislators and more than 30,000 legislative staff. Since 1975, NCSL has been the champion of state legislatures and the legislative institution. NCSL helps states remain strong and independent by giving legislators and staff the tools, information and resources they need to craft the best solutions to difficult problems.

While serving as NCSL's leader, Debbie promoted training programs for legislators and staff as one of her key initiatives. She was instrumental in helping NCSL initiate a series of workshops to strengthen the leadership of female lawmakers. Her commitment to bipartisanship and consensus-building in an increasingly polarized environment were reflected in her efforts to reach every lawmaker in every state and engage them with NCSL. Furthermore, she was a champion for federalism and actively guided work on behalf of the states in Washington, D.C.

Debbie had a particularly strong connection with the NCSL staff in Denver and Washington, D.C. She was as dedicated to the success of NCSL as she was to the many, many legislators and staff around the country who worked alongside her. We remember Debbie fondly and miss her very much.

We are grateful to have benefited from her strong organizational leadership and to have witnessed her personal commitment to her values, to her family and to legislative service. Future Washoe County students will be well-served to learn about her career and example of giving back to her community through service and public policy. On behalf of NCSL, thank you for considering the creation of Debbie Smith High School.

Sincerely,

Robin Vos  
Speaker of the Assembly, Wisconsin  
President, NCSL

Scott Saiki  
Speaker of the House, Hawaii  
President-Elect, NCSL

**PAT SPEARMAN, DBA**

SENATOR

District No. 1

Majority Co-Whip

**COMMITTEES:**

***Chair***

Commerce, Labor

***Vice Chair***

Health and Human Services

***Member***

Growth, Infrastructure, and Energy



**DISTRICT OFFICE:**

5575 Simmons Street, Suite 1-174  
North Las Vegas, Nevada 89031-9009  
Office: (702) 701-0612  
Cell: (702) 706-5785

**LEGISLATIVE BUILDING:**

401 S. Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747  
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(775) 684-1400  
Fax No.: (775) 684-6522  
Email: Pat.Spearman@sen.state.nv.us  
[www.leg.state.nv.us](http://www.leg.state.nv.us)

**State of Nevada**  
**Senate**  
**Seventy-Ninth Session**

October 27, 2019

To Members of The School Naming Committee,

I was fortunate to serve with Senator Debbie Smith in the Nevada State Senate from 2012-2016. Her untimely death was devastating and left a difficult void in our legislative body, community, and our state. Debbie was a tireless advocate for children, teachers and improving Nevada's Public Education. Children suffering from respiratory challenges now have EpiPen's because Debbie worked to ensure we passed a law acknowledging the need to have them in schools. She also worked to get additional funding to build, renovate, or expand schools in Washoe County and several rural areas frequently overlooked during budget discussions. Debbie carried that passion through her tenure in Legislative leadership, state and national organizations, and eventually President of the National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL).

Senator Debbie Smith's selflessness, wisdom, and unflinching resolve to improve all aspects of our educational system is the paragon for all public servants. Her legacy is unparalleled now and for several eons in the future. I believe it is very important to name this school for someone who worked until her last breath to ensure children, parents, administrators, and educators had the tools and support system to achieve success. Future generations MUST know about Senator Debbie

Smith a dedicated, Mother, Wife, Friend, and Legislator. It was my great honor to serve with her and I am extremely honored to submit this letter of support to name the school in her honor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pat Spearman", written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Senator Pat Spearman, DBA  
Nevada State Senate District 1

JOYCE WOODHOUSE

SENATOR

District No. 5



LEGISLATIVE BUILDING:

401 S. Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747

Office: (775) 684-1400

Fax No.: (775) 684-6522

Email: [Joyce.Woodhouse@sen.state.nv.us](mailto:Joyce.Woodhouse@sen.state.nv.us)  
[www.leg.state.nv.us](http://www.leg.state.nv.us)

**DISTRICT OFFICE:**

246 Garfield Drive  
Henderson, Nevada 89074-1027

(702) 896-1453  
Fax: (702) 407-9258

## State of Nevada Senate

October 28, 2019

Dr. Kristin McNeill  
Interim Superintendent  
Washoe County School District  
425 E. Ninth Street  
Reno, NV 89512

Dear Dr. McNeill:

I am truly honored to write a letter of recommendation for a high school to be named after Nevada State Senator Debbie Smith. I have known and worked with Senator Smith from the time she served in the Nevada State Assembly and then in the Nevada State Senate. She was one of the most intelligent, articulate, accomplished, and professional women with whom I have ever associated.

While serving together, we worked on so many education policy and funding issues, as well as others that affected residents and businesses across the state of Nevada. Her work ethic, assistance, and professionalism were always at the forefront of her work. She was truly one of the Nevada Legislature's most outstanding members. I can assure you that other legislators, as well as myself, first looked to Senator Smith, when we needed advice or answers to issues facing our state. More importantly, Senator Smith was a role model for the students of Washoe County.

Nevada and education lost a wonderful and passionate friend with the passing of Senator Smith. She was a mentor to me during the 2013 legislative session, as she chaired the Senate Finance Committee, and I served as a member. It was my distinct and heartfelt honor to follow in her footsteps in that position. I do hope I made her proud with our work, after she left us.

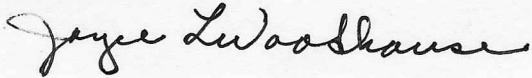
In conclusion, I encourage you to consider naming a high school after Senator Debbie Smith. I know of no one who is more worthy of this honor, for all of the work she accomplished as a parent, community member, and Nevada State Assemblywoman and Senator.



If you have questions or need further information, please feel free to contact me at [joyce.woodhouse@sen.state.nv.us](mailto:joyce.woodhouse@sen.state.nv.us) or via telephone at 702-498-8302 (cell).

Senator Debbie Smith is truly a "jewel" and an inspirational individual. She relished challenges and finding new opportunities and experiences for students, parents, teachers, and administrators across Nevada. I believe a school named after her will be a fitting testament to her legacy. I am so honored to call her my friend.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joyce Woodhouse". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Joyce Woodhouse

October 22, 2019

To: Interim School Superintendent Dr. Kristen McNeill  
Washoe County Board of Trustees, Katy Simons-Holland Chair  
Washoe County School Naming Committee

From: Honor Jones

I have followed the process regarding selecting names for the new high school at Wildcreek as well as for Hug High School and offer the following comments. I attempted to respond to the Reno Gazette Journal article but there was no vehicle in place to accept a comment.

A precedent has been set following a ruling that states newly constructed Washoe County high schools built in recognized geographical or geological areas are to bear the area's name. Although I understand this was modified recently, Wildcreek established in 1978 as a Sparks neighborhood park, still qualifies as a well-known geographical area. Surrounding businesses including the Wildcreek Business Park, medical practices, apartment complexes and housing developments have adopted the name Wildcreek. The creek that runs through the property off the Orr ditch is Wildcreek, a century old geographical landmark shown on topo maps.

Additionally, Washoe County Park By-Laws state parks are not to be renamed. Therefore, if the name selection follows policy, the area would remain as Wildcreek and the new high school that is located in Wildcreek (Park) should be appropriately named Wildcreek High School.

I understand the passion for naming a school after a person who has dedicated his/her career to education or is recognized for what he/she has accomplished for the betterment of education in our community. This is totally appropriate and is a long-standing tradition for new elementary and middle schools. However, the School Board of Trustees should adhere to the naming process and in this case Park By-Laws when selecting the name for the new high school. The new high school should be named Wildcreek High School.

By-Laws also state that once a high school is named, the name cannot be changed. This would be applicable to Hug High School. Since the school will take on a new curriculum focus, it still can be appropriately coupled with the Hug name. Hug CTE Academy.

There are many reasons supporting keeping the name Wildcreek that include regional support, inter school involvement and name recognition. I strongly urge the School Naming Committee and the School Board of Trustees to finalize the name Wildcreek High School.

*Honor Jones is a life-long Nevadan, University of Nevada graduate, former Reno High and adult education teacher, business owner and former Reno Park and Recreation Commissioner. She has served on non-profit boards and currently works with the Community Foundation of Western Nevada. Most importantly, she is a concerned citizen who cares about her community.*



October 28, 2019

Dear Washoe County Naming Committee:

I am writing in support of naming your new high school for Debbie Smith. I do not currently live in Washoe County but I am very familiar with Debbie and her consistent push for improved educational opportunities for all of Nevada's children.

Having grown up in a rural area and raising her kids in Sparks, Debbie had a unique perspective on educational needs and the obstacles that impeded the ability to meet those needs. She understood not only buildings and maintenance but also curriculum and support programs. She worked tirelessly to inform her community on what she felt was necessary and finish the projects that were started. Debbie listened, researched and acted. She was honest and good and could work with all kinds of people and opinions.

I knew Debbie both personally and professionally. She was a loyal friend and a great resource and advocate for education. She got things done. She made a difference and is worthy of having a school named for her.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Johna Reeves  
Retired Teacher/Counselor  
Battle Mountain High School

[Referenced attachment is "Office of the Mayor, City of Reno, Nevada, Proclamation"]

Dear School Board:

Dolores Feemster served this community for nine decades, much more than half of that at Hug High School.

Her decades-long tenure did not end when she retired. When Hug administrators confronted an especially thorny problem or a troubled student, their reaction was very often "call Dolores."

Her little house down Sutro Street from the school became a community center for northeast Reno. Her door was seldom locked. My daughter went to her home often for fellowship and counsel. As a young African growing up in Reno Mrs. Feemster know just what to say to little Africa American girl who did not feel pretty enough or worthy enough to apply for different positions at school. Mrs Feemstr told the girls they could do anything that wants to, The main thing was to stay in school and get good grades.

Mrs Feemster often fed my daughter along with other young people who wanted to hang out at her house. She was a shelter for kids who if had no where to go and would be on the streets.

With all due respect to all the other eminently qualified names before you, no one stands at Mrs. Feemster's level where Hug High is involved.

You may reward the example of her lifetime of service by re-naming Hug in her honor while transferring Procter Hug's name to the new location.

When Mrs. Feemster died last year, only the Reno-Sparks Convention Center had the capacity for her memorial service. About 2,000 attended, including former Hug and NFL star JoJo Townsell, who led the many Hug alumni present in the Hug Fight Song in Mrs. Feemster's honor. That continuity deserves respect.

**[Mrs Feemster was honored as our Legend Roast on March 2018. Please see the attached proclamation about her.](#)**

Your consideration is appreciated.

Gwen

Gwen Taylor  
[Redacted]  
Reno, NV 89503

**Office of The Mayor  
City of Reno, Nevada  
Proclamation**

**WHEREAS,** Dolores worked for the Economic Opportunity Program, serving as Outreach Director, managing an award winning program for seniors and youth; and

**WHEREAS,** Dolores served as Community Service Coordinator for nearly 34 years at Hug High School and had a positive influence in the lives of hundreds of students who grew to know and love her; she also strived to reduce racial discrimination and increase diversity and cultural training for teachers; and

**WHEREAS,** Dolores has spent countless hours doing civil rights work as a Committee Chair, Officer and Executive Committee member for the Reno/Sparks Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She currently serves on the Community Services Agency Board. Past community commitments include: Executive Board of North Nevada Black Cultural Awareness Society (NNBCAS), Board of Washoe Legal Service, and also participated in political activity with the Democratic Party of Washoe County; and

**WHEREAS,** in recognition of her community service, Dolores Feemster received numerous awards including: Mother of the Year from the Reno Business and Professional Women's Club, induction as Humanitarian into the Nevada Women's Fund Hall of Fame, Outstanding Achievement Award from the Reno/Sparks NAACP, and the President's Medal from the University of Nevada, Reno. In 1997 the Reno Housing Authority named a facility in her honor. The Northern Nevada Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Committee honored her with the 2015 Humanitarian Award.

**NOW THEREFORE,** I, Hillary L. Schieve, Mayor of the City of Reno, Nevada, do hereby declare


Friday, March 9, 2018, as

**DOLORES FEEMSTER DAY**

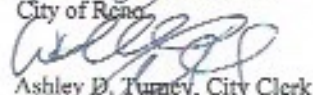
In and for the City of Reno, and encourage all of our citizens to join in recognizing the love and care she has shown to so many over the years.



**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have set my hand and caused the Seal of the city of Reno, Nevada, to be affixed this ninth day of March, 2018.

  
Hillary L. Schieve, Mayor  
City of Reno

**ATTEST:**

  
Ashley D. Turney, City Clerk  
City of Reno

[Email received from Vanessa Dixon, 11/1/2019]

To: [rsutton@washoeschools.net](mailto:rsutton@washoeschools.net) (Riley Sutton)

Subject: Support for Dolores Feemster school name  
Riley:

Please submit this to the school naming committee on my behalf.

DEAR COMMITTEE:

Dolores Feemster served this community for nine decades, much more than half of that at Hug High School.

Her decades-long tenure did not end when she retired. When Hug administrators confronted an especially thorny problem or a troubled student, their reaction was very often "call Dolores."

Her little house down Sutro Street from the school became a community center for northeast Reno. Her door was seldom locked.

She told me that on occasion, she would wake in the morning to find somebody's kid curled up on a sofa or in a corner.

"Who are you?" Mother Feemster would gently ask. The youth would often reply "I couldn't go home last night and a friend told me that it would be OK if I crashed here."

Then Dolores would fix breakfast and listen to what her new friend had to say.

With all due respect to all the other eminently qualified names before you, no one stands at Mrs. Feemster's level where Hug High is involved.

You may reward the example of her lifetime of service by re-naming Hug in her honor while transferring Procter Hug's name to the new location.

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Your consideration is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Vanessa



[Email received from wbosz, 11/1/2019]

I support the current Hug High be named for Delores Feemster.

The Wildcreek can then be named Hug as it currently is.

[Email received from Terry Foster, 11/2/2019]

I would like to have Hug High School re-named DOLORES FEEMSTER HIGH SCHOOL. Thank you

Dear Member of the school board,

I am writing to express my support for naming the new High School at Wildcreek after former State Senator Debbie Smith. While in the State Assembly and Senate, Debbie was the driving force behind the sponsoring and passing of Brianna's Law, as well as the sponsored of multiple pieces of legislation to assist schools including the bill that led to the creation of the 2016 ballot question WC-1 which gave Washoe County School District the capital funding for the Wildcreek Project. However her connection to schools goes back much farther than that; Debbie was a member of the Lander County School Board, and was a past president of the Nevada State PTA.

Outside of public service Debbie Smith was a 30 year plus Union Member. She served as a fringe benefits coordinator, so she understood the need and the value of having a good pension and healthcare for working people. She understood the value of being a functional and contributing member of society while working and retired and why these good paying jobs were so important, not only for today but for security tomorrow.

While all of these individuals a listed for consideration are deserving, and we don't want to diminish their accomplishments, without Debbie Smith we wouldn't be holding a meeting and naming a new school. Debbie's commitment to the education of current and future students as well as working men and women should not go unrecognized and her legacy should live on by honoring her with the naming of the new high school.

Regards,  
Carmelyn Malone  
[Redacted]  
Sun Valley, NV 89433

Dear Member of the school board,

I am writing to express my support for naming the new High School at Wildcreek after former State Senator Debbie Smith. While in the State Assembly and Senate, Debbie was the driving force behind the sponsoring and passing of Brianna's Law, as well as the sponsored of multiple pieces of legislation to assist schools including the bill that led to the creation of the 2016 ballot question WC-1 which gave Washoe County School District the capital funding for the Wildcreek Project. However her connection to schools goes back much farther than that; Debbie was a member of the Lander County School Board, and was a past president of the Nevada State PTA.

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Regards,  
Steven Penley  
[Redacted]  
Sparks, NV 89436



October 28, 2019

Dear Washoe County Naming Committee:

I am writing in support of naming your new high school for Debbie Smith. I do not currently live in Washoe County but I am very familiar with Debbie and her consistent push for improved educational opportunities for all of Nevada's children.

Having grown up in a rural area and raising her kids in Sparks, Debbie had a unique perspective on educational needs and the obstacles that impeded the ability to meet those needs. She understood not only buildings and maintenance but also curriculum and support programs. She worked tirelessly to inform her community on what she felt was necessary and finish the projects that were started. Debbie listened, researched and acted. She was honest and good and could work with all kinds of people and opinions.

I knew Debbie both personally and professionally. She was a loyal friend and a great resource and advocate for education. She got things done. She made a difference and is worthy of having a school named for her.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Johna Reeves  
Retired Teacher/Counselor  
Battle Mountain High School

Dear Board of Trustees,

This is Tristan J. Landsberry. I am a student in the Washoe County School District. I write to you on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October. I am the nephew of Michael Landsberry, the former teacher that was slain at Sparks middle School, who died on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October almost six years ago to this day. I understand that many names are in consideration for the name of the new Wildcreek High School, but I would like to ask the Board to consider my Uncles name a little more due to what he did almost six years ago to this day. My uncle gave his life in the defense of his students. He did what seldom others would ever even consider doing. He was a hero. A man of honor and represents the best of the Reno-Sparks area.

I hope that I don't put too much pressure on the board by asking that you consider his name a little more. It is just my family and I wish that he gets recognized and honored for his actions at Sparks middle school in 2013.

I Thank you all for reading this and for at least considering his name.

Sincerely,  
Tristan Landsberry