



**Dear Selection Committee,**

**October 24, 2023**

Thank you for all that you do for education in our country. I am ecstatic to write a letter of recommendation for Nevada's Teacher of the Year Ms. Laura Jeanne Penrod to become America's Teacher of the Year. With her tremendous impact on youth in Southern Nevada, I know she is changing students, families and our community's lives daily. As a proud first-generation college graduate and the first Filipina Assemblywoman in the NV State Legislature, I personally know the impact of an equitable education and a teacher that sees potential no matter students' backgrounds. Ms. Penrod is that teacher and I proudly recommend her as Teacher of the Year.

I first formally met Ms. Penrod through her students. They described her as a teacher that wanted to make sure they understood how the world worked and that they could have a say in that world. Dozens of high school students flooded my legislative inbox to set up meetings with me in order to engage and advocate for policies that impacted them. Their caliber of preparation, questions and ensuring a voice for the voiceless was inspirational. Upon asking where this came from, every group explained that their teacher Ms. Penrod was finding a way to teach them things that would impact them in the real world that was culturally relevant and aligned to their interests. They shared it was their favorite class because they were learning skills they would use forever.

Once I met Ms. Penrod I realized she was a teacher that I had known for over a decade. She has a reputation as an educator who is highly-effective, highly-motivating and someone who doesn't complain, but finds solutions. Whether it's her work with Teach Plus Nevada or the Portrait of a Learner Framework with the NV Department of Education, Ms. Penrod is finding long-term solutions at scale to support students and their families inside and outside the classroom. Thank you so much for considering her and don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Erica Mosca".

Assemblywoman Erica Mosca, AD14  
702.250.2320 // [erica.v.mosca@gmail.com](mailto:erica.v.mosca@gmail.com)  
Boston University BS, Harvard ED.M.