Assembly

HEALTH & WELFARE COMMITTEE MINUTES

FEBRUARY 26, 1973

MEMBERS PRESENT: BENNETT, CRADDOCK, WITTENBERG, MCNEEL,

GETTO, FRY

MEMBERS ABSENT: HICKEY

GUESTS: See Attached List

Chairman Bennett opened the meeting for a discussion of AB 309.

Assemblyman Wittenberg stated this bill was first passed two years ago, and to his knowledge it is working pretty well. This bill is only to add rubeola to the law, and to delete the words "for the first time" regarding a child enrolling in a public school. This change would require all public school children to be immunized. There is also a rider attached which states that if a parent certifies their child has had the shots, it is sufficient evidence.

Dr. Robert Broadbent appeared on behalf of the Nevada State Medical Association. They are objecting to image munization for rubella for scientific reasons. are also opposed to sub-paragraph (g) which states such other diseases as the board of trustees may determine", as they do not feel this authority should be given to a lay board. Mr. Wittenberg questioned why Nevada Medical Association was against immunization for rubella when American Medical Society, U. S. Health Service, and others were in favor of it. Dr. Broadbent stated that in the last two years a number of people have come out against He referred to an article in the January issue of the New England Journal of medicine which opposed immunization for rubella. Once a child has had rubella he cannot get it again, and it is a very minor disease. After a child has the vaccine, the limit of immunity falls off after a number of years. He is concerned about immunizing preschool girls and when they reach child bearing age the immunity may have worn off. He stated they were not against immunization, they were against a law making it compulsory.

Mr. McNeel asked about rubeola, and Dr. Broadbent explained it was "hard measles", a dangerous disease which could cause many complications, and the vaccine for it seemed to be worthwhile.



The next witness was Shirlee Wedow, State Parent Teacher Association Coordinator. She appeared on behalf of the bill and strongly urged a "Do Pass". A copy of Ms. Wedow's statement is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Jim Sale, Second Vice-President of Nevada Parent Teachers Association, and First Vice-President of Washoe Assn. of Retarded Children, urged passage of the bill on behalf of both organizations. In view of the overwhelming evidence linking mental retardation to rubello during first three months of pregnancy, he asked the Committee to weigh these three points very carefully: Dangerous and unnecessary risk to which we are exposing pregnant school teachers with only partial immunization of their pupils; (2) the thousands and thousands of tax dollars required for mental care of each retarded child; (3) the heartbreak and suffering of parents of retarded children.

Next appeared Charles Fleming, Clark County School District. He supports the idea of an immunization bill for Nevada, but feels that sub-section (g) giving the board of trustees the authority to determine other diseases should be removed. They do not want the responsibility. He also asked for a religious exemption, and Mr. Fry advised it was already in the law.

Dr. William Edwards of the Department of Health was the next witness. He supports the bill. He feels that rubella shots have been given for 8 years and immunization is not falling off, and there are always booster shots if it appears to fall off in the future. Nevada Medical Association is the only one he knows who is against shots for rubella. He feels the vaccine is good and it is one way to guarantee that children will grow up healthy. In the State they are budgeted for \$16,500 for this year and asking for \$17,500 for next. They also have Federal grant of \$11,000. There should be a law making it necessary to immunize all school children.

Mr. Mike Nash, also of the Department of Health, agreed with Dr. Edwards. He had surveyed the immunization level of kindergartem and first grade in Nevada rural counties. A copy of his statement and survey is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.

Virginia Wilson, Washoe County School District, stated she was the administrator of school health services in

charge of nurses. She stated the paper work involved in this type of bill was fantastic, and the amount of time involved a school nurse spending 7 working days on 100 students in each school. She felt the bill was impractical and unnecessary because of paper work and time involved, and also because there was no way to enforce it.

Mrs. Dorothy Button, Chairman of the Nevada Nurses' Association Committee on Legislation, opposed the bill on the grounds that children need immunizations long before they reach school age. A complete copy of Mrs. Button's statement is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.

Beverly Dyas, Washoe County School Nurse, also opposed the bill because of paper work involved. She had made a study of immunization in kindergarten, 1st grade and 6th grade and felt that 80% of children were being immunized. There are very few children who have had no shots.

There were no further witnesses on AB 309, and discussion turned to SB 193.

Dr. Chuck Dickson of the Division of Mental Hygiene and Mental Retardation said this bill was to transfer mentally ill people, including those convicted of crimes to the authority of the administrator of mental hygiene and mental retardation division. Many of these people should not be in prision, but should be treated. They plan to build a separate facility for this purpose.

The next bill for discussion was AB 187, which had previously been discussed on February 16th.

W. J. LaBodie and Gloria Handley of the Welfare Division stated they had reached an agreement with the State Fire Marshal, and presented a proposed amendment which was agreeable to both parties. A copy of such proposed amendment is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.

The discussion turned to SB 189.

Dr. Chuck Dickson again appeared as a witness. He stated this bill only changed the names of Nevada State Hospital and Southern Nevada Comprehensive Mental Health Center to Nevada Mental Health Institute, as the former names bear a stigma. Also certain other name changes appear on Page 26.

All witnesses and guests were excused, and the Committee discussed the various bills heard.

Assembly

HEALTH & WELFARE COMM. MINUTES Page 4 Feb. 26, 1973

Mr. Wittenberg made a motion to Amend and Do Pass AB 309. The amendment to change Sec. 1 NRS 392.435 by changing (g) to: Such other diseases as the State Board of Health may determine. Mr. Fry seconded the motion. Yes votes: Bennett, Craddock, Wittenberg, Fry and McNeel. No. votes: Getto MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Wittenberg made a motion "Do Pass" SB 193. Motion seconded by Mr. Getto. Carried unanimously.

On AB 187, Mr. Wittenberg made motion to Amend and Do Pass. The amendment to be as presented by State Welfare Dept. and set forth as an exhibit in these minutes. Mr. McNeel seconded the motion. Unanimously carried.

On SB 189, Mr. Fry motioned "Do Pass", Mr. McNeel seconded motion. Unanimously carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Dunne, Secretary

ASSEMBLY

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & WELFARE Monday Date Feb. 26, 1973 Time 8:00 a.m. Room 240

Bills or Resolutions to be considered	Subject	Counsel requested*
SB 193	Transfers authority over mentally ill offenders to administrator of mental hygiene and mental retardation division of department of health, welfare and rehabilitation.	
AB 187	Puts foster homes under exclusive licensing authority of welfare division of department of health, welfare and rehabilitation.	
AB 309	Requires all public school pupils to be immunized against rubeola and other diseases	
SB 189	Changes names of Nevada state hospital and Southern Nevada comprehensive mental health center	
*Please do not ask fo	or counsel unless necessary.	
	HEARINGS PENDING	
DateTime Subject	Room	
DateTime_ Subject	Room	

HEALTH AND WELFAI	RE COMMITTEE
PEASE FINT GUEST REC	GISTER
Date: Feb. 26, 1973	
NAME	REPRESENTING
Di Hunkow	Washre Country Healthy
V Yelson G. Weff	Newson Wedling asin.
Dr. CHNCK DICKSON	DIV. MENTAL HEALTH -MENTAL RETARD.
Dr. Gwen O'Bryan	" " " " "
MIKE NASH	DIVISION OF HEALTH
Bri Edward, mot	Stal Kealth
Jean & Peary	Board of hursing
GENER CLOCK	WASTAOK CO. DIST HEALTH
JIM SALE	NEVADA PARENT TEACHER ASSU. WADHOE ASSIN FUR RETARDED CHILDRE
Charles Fleming	Clark Co. School District
Shue Wodow	herala PTA
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Swerly Lyon down MD	Meuada State Med. Association
Dirginia R. Wilson	Washer Co. School District
W.J. Labodie	Welfare Div.
Gloria Handley	

HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE LEGISLATION ACTION

DATE Febru							
SUBJECT	SB 189						
MOTION:							· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Do Pass	X Amend		Indefini	tely Post	poneR	econsider -	-
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AMENDMENT:							
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Wittenberg, Fry, L.	$\frac{x}{x}$						
Wittenberg,	A. <u>x</u>						
Vittenberg, Fry, L. Getto, V.	A.						
Vittenberg, Fry, L. Getto, V. McNeel, R. TALLY:	A.					Withdrawn	
Vittenberg, Fry, L. Setto, V. McNeel, R. TALLY: Origin	A. X X X X X A	Passe	ed _xx_	 	ed	***************************************	

Attach to Minutes Feb. 26, 1973

(Date)

HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE LEGISLATION ACTION

SUBJECT	26, 1973 AB 187					_
MOTION: AMEND AN Do Pass	D x Amend	Indefin	itely Postpon	eRe	econsider	
Moved By	Mr. Wittenbe	rg Sec	conded by	Mr. Geti	:0	
AMENDMENT:						
AMENDMENT:	Moved By _		Seco:	nded By		
-	Moved ByMOTIO	ON	Secon		AMEND	
VOTE:	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Bennett, M. Craddock, R Hickey, T. Wittenberg, Fry, L. Getto, V. McNeel, R.	• x					
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Att	ach to Minutes	Feb. 26	, 1973			

(Date)

HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE LEGISLATION ACTION

SUBJECT	AB-309					
MOTION: AMEND AN	JD.					
Do Pass X	Amend	Indefini	tely Postr	one R	econsider <u>-</u>	~•
Moved By _	Mr. Wittenberg	Sec	onded by	Mr. Fry		
AMENDMENT: _						
AMENDMENT:	Moved By		Se	econded By		
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VOTE:	Yes	<u></u>	Yes	No	Yes	No
Bennett, M. Craddock, R. Hickey, T. Wittenberg, Fry, L. Getto, V. McNeel, R.	X					•
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(Date)

HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE LEGISLATION ACTION

DATE FED. 20	, 19/3					
SUBJECT SB	193					
MOTION:		***************************************				
Do Pass xx	Amend	Indefinit	ely Postpo	oneRe	consider	
Moved By M	r. Wittenberg	Seco	nded by _	Mr. Getto)	
AMENDMENT:						
	Moved By		Sec	conded By		
AMENDMENT:						
	Moved By		Sec AMENI		AMEND	
VOTE:	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Eennett, M. Craddock, R. Hickey, T. Wittenberg, A. Fry, L. Getto, V. McNeel, R.	- x - x - x - x - x					
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Attach	to Minutes	(Date)	,			

TESTIMONY - AB 309

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee, I am Shirlee Wedow, State Parent Teacher Association Coordinator. I am here to assure you that the Nevada Parent Teacher Association supports the proposed amendments to the Immunization Law.

Just as a little historical background, it was the Parent Teacher Association who strongly urged and supported this law at its inception in 1971. At that time we had ample evidence that such laws in other states (38 other states) - were serving a distinct purpose that was to save children's lives. At that time there was little or no opposition to the law. School districts supported it; health departments, state and local, urged it; the only opposition from doctors suggested the ommission of small pox, and this was done.

In the two years since the law's passage we are still concerned that its purpose to save lives, to avoid any possible occurence of epidemics and to pinpoint pockets of need is still valid. There has been no evidence to the contrary.

Our concern here today is with the proposed amendments:

- (1) to provide the innoculation for all children not just first time entrants. The original intent was for all children. The exact wording says, "first time entrants". We submit to you that it would be in the best interests of children to have the law apply to all children and not wait for the next 10 years to accomplish this.
- (2) the second amendment is to add Rubeola to the list of diseases for required immunizations. This inoculation should have been included two years ago. Now it can be.
- (3) the third amendment is not in the present draft but is being prepared and Mr. Capurro had hoped to have it here today. (The State Department of Health has a copy). This changes the responsibility for making the decision that any additional immunizations are necessary. We feel the State Board of Health would be the most qualified group.

The Nevada Parent Teacher Association strongly supports this bill and the proposed amendments and we urge a Do Pass. If I can answer any questions as to further background of the bill I will be glad to do so either today or at your convenience.

SURVEY OF IMMUNIZATION LEVEL
KINDERGARTEN AND FIRST GRADE
NEVADA RURAL COUNTIES

December 7, 1972

Prepared by Mike Nash

In late September 1972 the Nevada State Health Division began a survey of the Kindergarten and First Grade population in the 15 rural counties to determine the level of immunization.

The author of this report made on-site visits with the public health nurses in each area to initiate the study and the survey is broken down by the areas served by the public health nurses which cross county lines in several instances.

This was done because the public health nurse, except in Carson City, is the major source of immunizations.

During the course of the study the individual immunization records of 4,258 children were viewed. They were checked against attendance records for a census base. We asked that we be given a figure for DPT, Polio, and Rubella, the immunizations required by Nevada State Law. We also asked for figures on the refusals provided for by law and a figure on those children who had no records. The lack of a record containing a parental permission to immunize, it was hoped, would indicate the level of apathy.

In computing the state-wide average of completion we did not include any child who had anything lacking, even though he might be scheduled for a clinic (this figure is recorded in the box titled "Being done"), nor did we include those who were not immunized because of legal dispensation.

The level of immunization in the state's rural counties is 79.05 percent, below the recommended 80 percent for protection against a serious outbreak. The major area of weakness is in the rubella immunization. We found the level of immunization for DPT was 88.79 percent, and that 89.10 percent of the children are protected against polio. It must be pointed out that this is an average and there are pockets in which the level of protection is dangerously low.

Nevada's immunization law has been in effect for two years. The study shows the level of compliance with the law by the rural school districts.

It was hoped that the study would also indicate the work done over the first year in school to bring all of the students into the area of protection from disease which would prevent massive outbreaks.

The survey was also undertaken to determine those areas which would require concentrated work to overcome resistance and apathy on the part of parents and officials at the local level.

Another important plus for this type of survey is that the census information of the survey population is accurate.

The survey was made in the main by the Public Health and School nurses across the state. In several cases they were one and the same person.

Most studies are begun with some preconceived notions and this one was no exception.

It was believed that the real work to be done would be in the small remote communities, far from the major population centers.

This proved to be completely untrue, in fact, with very few exceptions the remote schools are 100 percent immunized. The major explanation appears to be that the people in remote areas see so little of health professionals that they miss no opportunity to gain some protection from disease.

Another notion which was torn apart was that the procedures across the state are pretty much the same. Each area is unique and has its own way of doing things, in fact we found very little similarity from place to place.

A notion which was reinforced had to do with attitude in the communities. Without exception, those areas in which there is a spirit of cooperation between the school district, doctors, school nurses, and public health nurses, aided by the local news media, the immunization level is high.

In some cases the school officials were unaware that the situation in the school was as bad as it was, but did take steps to correct the situation once they were made aware of it.

This report is a step in that direction. It is being made as an educational tool and it is hoped by the author that it will be used.

We did get some answers to some unknowns, mainly the number of parents who have deep feelings against immunization of their children and the level of apathy on the part of parents.

There were only 22 refusals to immunize on religious grounds as provided for in the law. (.51% of the total survey group)

17 children were excused for medical reasons which include allergies and, in the case of Rubella, a pregnancy in the family. (This was 39% of the total)

The level of parental apathy is indicated in the table by the column marked "no record." (A surprising 3.3% of the total) There appears to be a correlation between the figures and the size of the community. We also found that the problem was overcome in some areas by insistance on the part of school officials that parents comply with the law.

In areas where the public health nurse is also the school nurse the level of immunization is higher and the missing record problem is non-existent. This is also true in areas where there is a high level of cooperation between the public health nurses and school officials.

We also found as many record keeping systems as there are schools. Regardless of the system used, the difference in the attitude of the local personnel was directly proportional to the ease of data collection.

We found that the problems lie mainly in the officialdom and not with the parents. Parents generally may not be aware of the exact status of their child's immunization but they are quite willing to see that what is needed is done. This was indicated often by permission slips which said, "I don't know what he has had. Give him what he needs."

As with any survey taken of an ongoing program, the figures in this one are fluid. The one nice thing is that the only way to go is up. Some of the counts were taken prior to immunization clinics. We have up-dated those areas in which we have gotten new figures. If you feel that the situation in your area has changed, please inform us of the new figures.

** The averages were computed by adding the figures in each column and dividing the total by the total survey population. The figure for Rubella is higher than the state-wide average of completion because the completion figure takes into account several children who have had the Rubella immunization DPT anc/or Polio.

Rur Counties Kindergarten/First Grade Immunization Status

Date December 7, 1972

Page 1 of 3

cation	DPT	Pollo	Rubella	Census	% Complete		fusal	No Record	_	Remarks
						Rel	Med		(on list)	
Carson City				·	,					Clinics being set up by
Gleason School K	42	41	35	46	76.1%			5		School District with
Corbett School K	39 43	37 43	34 29	47 . 50	72.3% 58.0%					co-operation of Health Division.
Fromont School K	97	44 97	26	55	47.3%	7		11		
Fremont School K	77	77	49 32	114 116	43.0% 27.6%	3		14 33		
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Churchill District wide K	157	157	151	164	00.14			0	10	
DISTRICT WIDE N	153 167	153 167	151 167	164 201	92.1% 83.1%	1	1	8 2	10 5	
Total	320	320	318	365	87.12%					,
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Douglas District wide K	110	101	94	119	79.0%	2				
1	143	139	126	161	78.3%	_				
Total	253	240	220	280	78.57%					`
Elko										
Elko City 3 Schools K		144	125	151	82.9%					
Nells School K	195 18	194 18	157 18	207 19	75.8 % 94.7 %					
1	37	37	37	40	92.5%					
Rural Schools total Curry All	11	11	10	11	00.04				1	
O'Neil All	21	21	21	21	90.9%				•	
Montello All	29	29	29	29	100%					
Jackpot All	47	47	47	53	88.7%				6	
Total	502	501	444	531	83.61%					
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Russ Counties Kindergarten/First Grade Immunization Status

Date December 7,			,	<u>,</u>		اسـ				Page of 3
ocation	DPT	Polio	Rubella	Census	% Complete		fusal Med	No Record	Being Done	Remarks
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Humboldt		1,-	7.			١.			. .	
Winnemucca Schools (3)K		76	34	86	39.5%	1	1 1		51 3 6	
P	78	74	57	95	60.0%	']		٥٥	
Rural Kings River All	10	10	10	10	100%					
**	31		31	10	100%		1 1			
Denio All McDermitt All	254	31 254	254	31 254	100%					
	63			3	£ : :		1 1			
Orovada All	65	63	63	6 3	100%		ll			
Total	516	508	449	539	83.30%					
Lander									ļ	
Battle Mountain K	34	34	35	37	91.9%		1 1		3	
1	58	58	53	61	86.9%			3	3 5	
Rural					00.5μ		1 1			
Austin All	102	102	102	103	99.0%	1		1		
Beowawe All	76	76	76	76	100%	·	l l			
Total	270	270	266	277	96.03%					
Lyon							1			Clinics are in progress
Yerington K	52	51	58	94	E A 7d		ll	10	33	in Dayton. No report
1 terringion	81	90	89		54.3%	1		6	37	from Smith Valley.
Fernley K	43	43	41	125 53	64.8%	1	1, 1	9	٠,٢	Trom Smith variey.
1	61	61	60	65	77.4%	•		4		
Dayton 1	11	20	5	20	92.3%		l'	7	15	
2	18	23	7	23	25.0%		1	1	16	
Total	266	288		380	30.4% 64.47%		1	1	10	
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Mineral	1			l	_					
Hawthorne & Babitt K		114	114	114	100%		İ			
1	125	125	125	125	100%		1			
Mina 1	10	10	10	10	100%			I		
Gabbs 1	22	22	22	22	100%					1.3
Schurz K	10	10	10	12	83.3%	2	1			(A)
Tatal	5	5	5	7	71.4% 98.62%	2		I		\tilde{v}
Total	286	286	286	290	90.02%					
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Rural Counties Kindergarten/First Grade Immunization Status

Date December 7, 1972

Page $_3$ of $_3$

cation		DPT	Pollo	Rubella	Census	% Complete		fusal	No Record	Being Done	Remarks
								Med			
Nye & Esmeralda						·					
Tonopah	K 1	27 18	27 18	27 18	29 18	93.1% 100%	2				
Rural					1			1 1	l		
Round Mountain	All	25	25	25	25	100%		1	I		
Silver Peak	Ali	20	20	20	20	100%	i				
Beatty	All	260	260	260	260	100%					
Amergoso	All	60	60	60	60	100%					
Dyer	All	36	36	36	36	100%					
Pahrump	K	26	26	26	26	100%					
•	1	18	18	18	18	100%			1		
	Total	490	490	490	492	99.59%					
Pershing							-				
Lovelock	K	20	20	20	30	66.7%	1	1	3	6	
	1	49	49	49	49	100%				Ť	,
Rural	·		'	,,,		.00,		1	i		
Imlay	All	26	26	26	26	100%、		1			
· ···· • /		1									
	Total	95	95	95	105	90.47%					
White Pine, Eur	eka &										
Duckwater			1								
Lund (1st and 2		13	14	12	16	75.0%			1]	3 8	
Ruth	K		15	12	15	66.7%					
	1	14	14	16	22	63.6%			4	10	
Murry Street	K	40	52	21	- 61	34.4%			9	31	
	ī	14	19	12	21	57.1%			2	7	
McGill	K	18	20	8	31	25.8%					
	1	24	30	17	45	37.8%					
East Ely	K		39	26	64	40.6%			1		
	1	27	33	13	42	30.9%					
	Total	207	236	137	317	41.95%					juda (* g (* m)
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Rur Counties Kindergarten/First Grade Immunization Status



Date December 7

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Date December /										· age Oi
cation	DPT	Polio	Rubella	Census	% Complete	Re I	fusal Med	No Record	Being Done	Remarks
Lincoln								,		
Alamo K	7	7	7	7	100%				,	
	11 10	10 10	10 10	11 10	90.9% 100%				1	
Caliente K 1	9	9	9	9	100%					
Panaca 1	13	13	13	13	100%					
Carp K	2	2	2	2	100%		3			
Pioche K Total	18 70	18- 70	16 68	19 71	84.2 % 95.77%		ر			
10141	"	, ,	00							
Rural County totals	5784	3794	3374	4258						
Rercent complete	88.799	89.10%	79.23%	1250	79.05%					
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I am Dorothy Button. I live at 1590 Hillside Drive in Reno.

I am chairman of the Nevada Nurses' Association Committee on
Legislation. Nevada Nurses' Association is a professional
organization for registered nurses.
Nevada Nurses' Association believes in immunizations!

I am speaking in opposition to A.B. 309. The Nevada Nurses'
Association favors repeal of this legislation passed at the
1971 Legislative Session. And we did oppose this legislation
at hearings of both the Assembly and Senate in 1971.

Our reason for opposing it is that children need immunizations

long before they reach school age. Immunization of infants

against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus and poliomyelitis

should be carried out initially during the first year of life,

with booster doses during subsequent years. The most serious

complications are more likely to occur in young children and

fatalities are greatest in young children. Any one of the

i.e. diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus and polio
four conditions enumerated above/is a serious disease in a

child under one year of age.

Instead of trying to force everyone to have their children immunized by school age, we should be concentrating on getting our children immunized during the first year of life. We have done a poor job of public education if parents are waiting until their children are school age to have them immunized. I have here our son's immunization record. It was begun by our doctor when this boy was 5 months old at which time he ask me to bring the record with me whenever had an appointment the factor. This is as it should be!

Another problem with all this publicity about the child having to have immunizations by school age is that many parents immediately conclude that the child does not need can be immunizations before school age and this is a grievous error.

Although the Nevada Nurses Association opposes A.B. 309, I believe that you will pass something just as you did in 1971. I hope it will be better than what you passed in 1971 and I hope it will be enforceable.

I would like to point out some problems with A.B. 309. On line 2--within 3 months after any child is enrolled in a any child is public school--this should be amended to read "When/enrolled" Line 15: Someone besides the board of trustees should be determining other diseases to be added or subtracted--some-one from the medical field. We get into trouble when persons who have no medical back ground begin legislating on health matters without input from medical people. That is the trouble we have been in since this law was passed in 1971.

We recommend Sections 1, 3 & 4 of AB-187 remain as presented.

A revision to Section 2 is attached. We request Sections 5

and 6 be deleted to avoid any possible conflict with AB-373.

Also, we suggest the addition of another Section. The new section is #7 from the attached document.

Section 2. NRS 424.020 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 424.020 1. The welfare division of the department of health, welfare and rehabilitation, in cooperation with the state board of health and state fire marshal, shall:
- (a) Establish reasonable minimum standards for [foster homes.] family foster homes and group foster homes.
- (b) Prescribe rules for the regulation of [foster homes.] family foster homes and group foster homes.
- 2. All licensed [foster homes] <u>family foster homes and group foster homes</u> must conform to the standards established and the rules prescribed in subsection 1.
- Section 7. NRS 477.030 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 477.030 1. The state fire marshal shall enforce all laws and ordinances, and make rules and regulations relating to:
 - (a) The prevention of fires.
- (b) The storage and use of combustibles, flammables, fireworks and explosives.
- (c) The construction, maintenance and regulation of fire escapes.
- (d) Overseeing the safety of and directing the means and adequacy of exits in case of fire from factories, asylums, institutions, day care facilities, [foster homes,] nursing homes, hospitals, churches, schools, halls, theaters, amphitheaters, all buildings, except private residences, which are occupied for sleeping purposes, and all other places where large numbers of persons work, live or congregate from time to time for any purpose.
- (e) The suppression and punishment of arson and fraudulent claims or practices in connection with fire losses.

- 2. The state fire marshal shall cooperate with the welfare division of the department of health, welfare and rehabilitation in establishing reasonable minimum standards for, overseeing the safety of and directing the means and adequacy of exit in case of fire from family foster homes and group foster homes.
- [2] 3. The state fire marshal may set standards for equipment and appliances pertaining to fire safety or to be used for fire protection purposes within this state, including the threads used on fire hose couplings and hydrant fittings.
- [3] 4. The state fire marshal and his deputies shall have such powers and perform such other duties as are prescribed by law.