

## DISCLAIMER

Electronic versions of the exhibits in these minutes may not be complete.

This information is supplied as an informational service only and should not be relied upon as an official record.

Original exhibits are on file at the Legislative Counsel Bureau Research Library in Carson City.

Contact the Library at (775) 684-6827 or [library@lcb.state.nv.us](mailto:library@lcb.state.nv.us).

April 9, 2003

Assembly Commerce & Labor

Dear Committee Members:

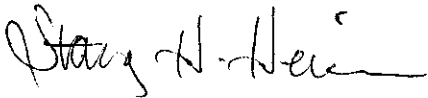
I would like to express my full and enthusiastic support for AB 356. Through my work, my relationships, and my studies, I have become acutely aware of the crisis of wages in our state. As a social worker-to-be and a coordinator at a local non-profit, my salary is certainly not the subject of much envy, but is still well above what would be considered a living wage. Nonetheless, if I were suddenly on my own I have found that it would be a serious juggling act to shelter, clothe and feed myself on a single income. AB 356 is not making outrageous demands; what it asks for is very modest.

As part of my graduate studies (in Social Work), 7 classmates and myself were given a hypothetical family for which we were to find employment, housing, etc. in the Reno area. Our group divided so that 1-2 people would focus on each of the family's needs. What we all found is that the cost of living in our area is significantly higher than most states, this includes cost of housing, electricity, gasoline, childcare, etc. To make things more complicated, our "safety nets" are so under-funded that assistance was hard to come by. For example, we found that the lowest standards of childcare would have cost our family at least \$500/month, and the waiting list for subsidies was 6 months long. If we expect people to establish self-sufficiency, we have to make sure that there are jobs available in our community that will grant them a fair-day's pay for a fair-day's work.

I am sure that some business would complain that this is too much of a hardship for them, but I also know that there will be representatives of the business community at this hearing who will show you that it can be done successfully. For those that would oppose this measure, they should be asked if the state should be responsible for picking up their slack. Without a doubt, that is what it comes down to. If people cannot support themselves due to a low wage, they will be forced to rely on the state to fill in the holes. Nevada is kind to business, and that suits us, but our kindness to business cannot take priority over our responsibility to our people...or all is lost.

I would ask that you give your full support to this bill, as it is a bill that is truly good for the people of Nevada. We are counting on you.

Sincerely,




Stacy H. Heiser

1510 Ellendale Court  
Reno, Nevada 89503

(775) 746-5284

ASSEMBLY COMMERCE & LABOR 1085  
DATE: 4/09/03 ROOM: 4100 EXHIBIT J  
SUBMITTED BY: Joe Edson

 **N A S W** | NEVADA CHAPTER  
National Association of Social Workers

Board of Directors

President

Jim Euler

Vice President

Denise Montcalm

Treasurer

Jim Parcels

Secretary

Alice Drengson

Past President

Esther Langston

Programs - North

Diane Phenix

Programs - South

Stacey Hardy-Desmond

Member-at-Large

Kristy Brennan

BSW Rep.

Carole Allison

Rural Rep.

Vic Hutchings

MSW Student Rep.

Jeanette Bradford

BSW Student Rep.

Joni Reid

Executive Director

Mark Nichols

Main Office

1555 E. Flamingo  
Suite #158  
Las Vegas, NV 89119

(702) 791-5872  
(702) 525-6031 (cell)  
(702) 791-5873 (fax)  
(800) 679-NASW

Northern Office

c/o UNR School of Social  
Work MS/090  
Reno, NV 89557

(775) 322-7558  
(775) 784-4573 (fax)

[naswnv@worldnet.att.net](mailto:naswnv@worldnet.att.net)

April 7, 2003

Assemblywoman Christina Giunchigliani  
Nevada State Assembly  
401 South Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Assemblywoman Giunchigliani:

The National Association of Social Workers-Nevada Chapter (NASW) strongly supports AB 356, your Living Wage bill that will increase the minimum wage that must be paid in Nevada. NASW-Nevada urges the Assembly Commerce and Labor Committee to vote YES on AB 356.

Supporting social policies that increase economic justice in our society is an important role of the social work profession. One of NASW-Nevada's top legislative priorities is to support legislation that addresses the needs of Nevada's working families. AB 356 is a commitment to Nevada's working families, and an investment in the future of our great state.

It is imperative that everyone in our state is able earn enough to provide at least their most basic needs-without being forced to work more than one full-time job or rely on public assistance to survive. AB 356 is excellent legislation that will help Nevada families live, as well as plan for the future and for the unexpected.

Thank you again, Assemblywoman Giunchigliani, for introducing this important legislation. NASW-Nevada urges the Committee to pass AB 356.

Please include this letter of support in the public record during the committee hearing.

Sincerely;



Executive Director

## Remarks of Maryanne Salm on A.B. 356 – 4/9/03

Good afternoon, Mister Chairman, members of the committee.

My name is Maryanne Salm and I am political director of Service Employees International Union, Local 1107. We are the largest health care union in Nevada, representing more than 7,000 doctors, nurses and staff, including workers at UMC, our public hospital.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify about A.B. 356 because it addresses a crisis that our members are dealing with every day.

That crisis is the rapid and unchecked rise in the number of Nevada residents without health insurance.

Many of the uninsured are workers who've lost their jobs as the economy has slumped. But an even greater number are people who still have jobs—people who work hard and pay their taxes, but are denied affordable health insurance by irresponsible employers.

One of the worst employers is Wal-Mart—even though it's one of the largest and most profitable companies in America.

When companies like Wal-Mart deny health care to their workers, those workers often turn to publicly supported hospitals and clinics for care. Here in Clark County, University Medical Center—the only community hospital in Southern Nevada—consistently provides more care for the uninsured than all other local hospitals combined.

In effect, local taxpayers are paying for the health care of Wal-Mart's employees. This is corporate welfare of the worst sort. To give a sense of how much companies like Wal-Mart are costing Nevada taxpayers, I'll briefly review how much care UMC provides to the uninsured.

In fiscal year 2002, UMC and the UMC Quick Cares provided 56 million dollars in uncompensated care to uninsured patients. That was 13.4 million dollars more care for the uninsured than UMC provided in fiscal year 2001.

If trends from the first and second quarter of fiscal year 2003 hold true, UMC will provide 70 million dollars in charity care this year. That's a 25 percent increase over 2002.

This puts a terrible strain on UMC—and on the taxpayers who support it.

Companies like Wal-Mart can no longer be allowed to pump up their profits at the expense of local taxpayers. It is time to pass A.B. 356.

Thank you.