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March 19, 2003

Remarks prepared by Katherine L. Ross, M.S., CCC-SLP as testimony in support of AB 268.

As we go about our jobs each day we just do what we do without thinking too much about what we know.

As I was reviewing information to prepare my remarks for today I was reminded that Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs) are very highly trained individuals who are held to a very high standard for that training and to a very high standard for our various certifications.

I am proud of what I do and proud of what I know. I make a difference in the lives of Nevada's children and their families.

I strongly support **Assembly Bill 268** which will recognize and reward the high level of training and excellence in Speech-Language Pathologists working as teachers of speech and language impaired pupils in Nevada's public schools.

- School based SLPs use an **educational** model in which a pupil's individualized goals and objectives are developed specifically to support that pupil's **educational** success.
- School based SLPs use the Nevada State Standards as a guideline for developing these individualized goals and objectives.
- The Nevada State Standards were developed as a result of passage of **Senate Bill 482** in 1997.
- The standards are a set of common curriculum expectations defining what pupils should know and be able to do in particular subject areas at particular times in their schooling.
- These standards are used by **all** regular and special educators for the purpose of curriculum and lesson planning.
- The standards hold **all** Nevada teachers accountable for teaching certain knowledge and skills and hold pupils accountable for learning certain knowledge and skills.
- Regular education teachers generally interact with administrators and the 3 or 4 staff teaching their same grade.
- SLPs generally interact with administrators, all regular education staff (25+ teachers) and all special educators (resource teachers, teachers of special self-contained programs, nurses, psychologists, physical therapists, occupational therapists, consultants for vision and hearing impaired students...)
- A typical regular education classroom includes 0 to 4 students with special needs.
- The School based SLPs class or caseload is made up entirely of 55 or more pupils who have speech and/or language impairments and other special needs due to language disorders, mental retardation, developmental delay, autism, hearing impairment, vision impairment, learning disabilities, fluency disorders, traumatic-brain injury, syndromes, attention disorders, social-emotional disorders, behavior disorders.....
- Using the standards to create goals and objectives for such a diverse group of students is demanding and requires a high level of training, creativity and sensitivity.
- SLPs are often the professional in a school setting most often consulted regarding working with special needs children.
- I believe that Nevada's Speech Language Pathologists who meet the requirements for the Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) deserve recognition for their training, excellence and hard work.
- **I am asking you to support AB 268**

My thanks to all of you for your hard work here in the legislature and for your dedication to the people of Nevada.

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ASSEMBLY EDUCATION
DATE: 3/19/03 ROOM: 3143 EXHIBIT G
SUBMITTED BY: KATHERINE ROSS