

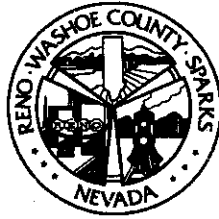
DISCLAIMER

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.



DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WASHOE COUNTY DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT TESTIMONY REGARDING AB228

March 19, 2003

Good afternoon. My name is Stephanie Beck. I am a nurse and the Emergency Medical Services Coordinator at the Washoe County District Health Department. On behalf of the Washoe County District Health Department, I thank you for the opportunity to provide input on AB228.

Hospitals wishing to be designated as trauma centers go through a strict review process. They must meet the extensive guidelines of the American College of Surgeons and the regulations of the Nevada State Board of Health. They make a significant financial commitment to go through the designation process and to maintain the level of services required.

We know that trauma centers, by centralizing specialized trauma services, save lives every day. Trauma services come at a high price. Many trauma centers across the country have been unable to maintain their designations because of extensive and often unreimbursed costs. In several states trauma hospitals are seeking public tax support to be able to maintain their services.

The District Health Department has reservations about the short term and long term repercussions of this bill on our statewide trauma system, and the designated trauma center in Washoe County. In the short term, putting additional financial pressures on the trauma center that serves Northern Nevada and Northern California, may result in decreased funding for a variety of public health programs that are currently funded by the Washoe Health System. In the long term, the potentially exorbitant financial pressures that may result from this bill could result in all of Northern Nevada and Northern California being without a trauma center in the future.

Washoe County District Health Department staff will present our concerns to the Washoe County District Board of Health at their March 27, 2003 meeting, and will ask the Board to support staff's position that, as written, AB228 may have adverse consequences on the public's health.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee.

Stephanie Beck, RN

Stephanie Beck, RN
EMS Coordinator
Washoe County District Health Department

ASSEMBLY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DATE: 03/19 ROOM: 3138 EXHIBIT H

SUBMITTED BY: Stephanie Beck