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Good morning Chairman Anderson and the distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee.

My name is Pamela Rowse, I have been a practicing Registered Nurse in the State of Nevada since 1980 with a primary focus in emergency and prehospital patient care. But in 1998 my focus took a new and painful turn when I found it necessary to start the

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY

DATE: <u>2-//-03</u> ROOM 3138 EXHIBIT <u>F</u>

SUBMITTED BY: <u>Pamela</u> Rowse

Kierra Harrison
Foundation for Child
Safety, a not for profit
organization in the State of
Nevada.

I want to thank you for this opportunity to speak on behalf of this important issue regarding "Shaken Baby Syndrome" and AB – 8 as it relates to the definition of SBS and the Nevada Revised Statute on "child abuse".

In March of 1997 my 14 month old grand daughter Kierra Ashlie Danielle Harrison died from brain injuries that she sustained from being shaken and slammed onto a blunt surface.

Even as our family observed her tiny unresponsive body being taken to the CT scan for

diagnosis, there was not a single sign externally present that reflected in any way that she had been abused.

We later learned that the brain injury and trauma that existed was so severe that Kierra would not survive from her event.

Over many months and years we researched this "syndrome" of SBS and

learned that we were not alone in our plight and grief. On the contrary there was a major crisis on the forefront regarding not only the children being identified with this injury, but the prosecution and conviction of the accused perpetrators in similar crimes even in our own state.

The general population in the U.S. without adequate

informed knowledge of the syndrome, physicians, law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, jurys accepted that a child without outward signs of abuse could not have been abused, but only a subject in a random loss of adult temper and an excusable act of anger.

This is currently known to be an untruth.

Shaken Baby Syndrome is defined by the American **Academy of Pediatricians** in their position statement dated July 1, 2001 "Shaken **Baby Syndrome: Rotational Cranial Injuries** - Technical Report..... as "a serious and clearly definable form of child abuse. It results from extreme rotational cranial acceleration induced by violent shaking or shaking/impact, which

would be easily reconizable by others as dangerous. More resources should be devoted to prevention of this and other forms of child abuse.

Child abuse very clearly defined. The amount of force required to inflict injury by shaking....is sufficient to be recognized by not only the adult inflicting the shaking but anyone including a child

observing the act that it would result in ultimate "injury to the baby"

There are two internationally documented cases regarding "adult shaken syndrome" during the Israeli conflict....

ISRAELI FIRST WORD
TORTURE IS SPOKEN
U.S. ATTORNEY
GENERAL CONDEMNS

F. 9817

## SHAKING OF ARAB PRISONERS IN INTERROGATION

Ben Yair, whose reply was made public today, was so angry that he broke a longstanding taboo. He became the first senior \* government official in memory to use the word "torture" in the context of Israel's treatment of Arab security prisoners, and he spoke graphically about a

method known as "whiplashing" or "shaking."

He spoke of violence in the interrogation cells, and brain damage, and even death. He disclosed nothing not well documented by the world's leading human rights organizations, several of which have long accused Israel of torture, but the words were

revolutionary for a man in his position.

The interrogation death of detainee Abdel Zamed Harizat in April, Ben Yair told the law journal, "shook all of us in the Justice Ministry and me personally. We saw a demonstration on videotape of the shaking, and it was completely different from what is written in the regulations. I discovered

that this is emphatically a physical method, and the fact is that it caused a man's death."

"We didn't know what shaking was," Ben Yair said, referring to the ministerial committee that is supposed to supervise the Shin Bet. "We thought it was a slight rocking. The damage that could be caused by shaking is not

only death. The subject can also suffer brain damage.

This man suffered the same clinical presentation as our infant SBS victims...subdural hematomas, and retinal hemorrahages "Adult SBS"

Nevada has the opportunity to move forward in the prosecution and conviction of individuals that choose to evoke violence upon our

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most vulnerable citizens our children. Approving AB-8 and it's added definition of SBS in it's Child Abuse Statues will assist in placing Nevada in the forefront of child abuse prevention and prosecution.

Our children need to be protected as well as their injuries and deaths prosecuted effectively. AB-8 will assist in this pursuit.

Again I thank Chairman
Anderson and the
Committee for allowing me
to share with them my
support and endorsement
of AB-8 and my wish for
the most effective
prosecution of child abusers
that we can find....!

Much thanks to the Committee....Mark Manendo for the bill submission, the Clark County DA's Office for the

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submitted revisions to the definition, the Clark County Fire Fighters, LV Metro and ALL who have been supportive in the fight for better child abuse prosecution.