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KIDS 'N CARS™

A c a r i s N O T a t o y

February 5, 2003

The Honorable Mark E. Amodi
Chairman, Senate Judiciary Committee
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Dear Senator Amodi:

I am writing to urge you to support proposed Senate Bill 17, which is aimed at reducing the number of children left unattended in motor vehicles and thereby preventing injuries and deaths.

At least 12 children have died in Nevada as a result of being left unattended in motor vehicles. Many others have been injured and hospitalized due to this dangerous practice. Often parents or caregivers do not realize the danger of their actions until it is too late and serious harm has befallen a child.

SB 17 authorizes a fine of not more than \$300 if a person responsible for a child 7 years or younger leaves that child unattended in a motor vehicle if the child is placed at risk, or the vehicle's engine is left running, or the vehicle's keys are left anywhere in the passenger compartment. SB17 represents a reasonable approach to preventing injuries and deaths to children by emphasizing increased education and enforcement.

Children left alone in cars in Nevada have died from heat stroke, trunk entrapment, fire, and setting a vehicle into motion. Unattended children have also been injured as a result of a car theft. Nine other states, California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Washington already have laws that prohibit leaving children unattended in vehicles.

It is our belief that SB 17 will save lives of children in Nevada and urge you to support this important bill.

We applaud your commitment to promoting and protecting the lives and health of all children in Nevada.

Sincerely,

Janette E. Fennell
Janette E. Fennell
Executive Director/Cofounder

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY

DATE: 3/4/03 ROOM: 3138 EXHIBIT F
SUBMITTED BY: JANETTE FENNEL

Trauma Foundation
San Francisco General Hospital
San Francisco, CA 94110
415.789.1000
415.789.9424 Fax
Janette@kidsncars.org
www.kidsncars.org

918 Glenn Avenue
Washington, MO 63090
636.390.8268
636.390.9412 Fax
Struttmann@kidsncars.org
www.kidsncars.org