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Testimony to Assembly Transportation Committee 08 April 2003

By State Controller Kathy Augustine

The State Controller's Office is here to support AB 477, which eliminates

the Department of Motor Vehicles registration refunds. This is a sound

fiscal move which will restore approximately \$4.5 million annually to the

General fund to support state services and the General fund cash balance.

My office has been issuing refunds at a rate of almost 400 refunds per day

with a 35-day log. To date, the State Controller's Office has had to cancel

11,793 state checks, or about 10% of the total refund checks issued to date.

The average cost to produce each check is about \$4.86, which includes the

cost of check stock, postage, envelopes, etc. The estimated cost for my

office to cancel each state check is about 30 minutes at \$14.00 per hour, for

a total personnel cost of \$82,551.00.

In calendar years 2001-2003, the state will lose about \$2.3 million in

highway funds and \$5.9 million from the school fund. This is no longer

acceptable in these tough fiscal times.

I encourage the committee to Do Pass this bill without any amendments.

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATIO

DATE: 4/8/03 ROOM: 3/43 EXHIBIT
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