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## TESTIMONY

**BILL: AB 259 Creates Advisory Committee on Homelessness**

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

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Good morning, Chairman Arberry and members of the Committee. I am Nancy Ford, Administrator of the Welfare Division. I am here to present testimony on behalf of the Department of Human Resources. The Department of Human Resources supports the establishment of an advisory committee on homelessness. Nevada was selected to send a team to the Policy Academy on Homeless Families with Children in November 2001, sponsored by the US Department of Health and Human Services and the US Department of Housing. One of the key outcomes from that training, was the development of the Nevada Homeless State Action Plan. AB 259 is the result of the recommendation made in the Plan to create a lasting structure for statewide policy-level discussion and actions on homelessness.

Creating this advisory committee will enhance the coordination and provision of services to Nevada's homeless population. Currently, our homeless services are fragmented across multiple agencies at both local and state levels. This bill recognizes the need to implement coordinated statewide systems to address the issues surrounding the homeless. It also provides the opportunity for the State to take the leadership role on this issue.

Thank you for this opportunity to highlight this important issue.

ASSEMBLY WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: 4-14-03 ROOM: 3137 EXHIBIT C

SUBMITTED BY: Nancy Ford, Welfare Div

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