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April 28, 2003

TO: Members of the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee

FR: Jerry A. Hughes, NIAA Executive Director

RE: AB 185

On behalf of the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association and the schools, school districts, and the officials with whom we work, we would like to offer a short synopsis of why we feel this piece of legislation should be passed into law.

- **Workers' Compensation has been provided to Nevada high school athletic officials for many years.**
- **The rates for all officials during this time were approximately 5% (\$5 per \$100) and were considered reasonable and served as a means to reduce potential liability for the schools.**
- **In recent years, starting with the disbanding of SIIS, rates have soared whereby schools/school districts have been forced to pay rates as high as 47% (\$47 per \$100) for football and wrestling officials.**
- **Insurance companies no longer have to stay within a percentage of rates established by NCCI. It has become more or less an open market and this year some officials' associations have been denied insurance.**
- **At this time state statues were reviewed. We could not fully determine if workers' compensation was even required for athletic officials. Note: College officials are not covered.**
- **On behalf of the schools / school districts and the officials, the NIAA brought together the individual officials' association commissioners and told them we would work to have legislation drafted and passed that would include "sports officials" (as defied in this proposed bill) as being exempt under the workers' compensation law.**
- **A compensation package has been proposed to compensate the officials for the loss of this benefit. The proposal would benefit both the officials and the schools.**