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MILLS

NEVADA HEALTH CARE REFORM PROJECT

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May 7, 2003

STATEMENT TO THE NEVADA STATE LEGISLATIVE SENATE COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE ON AB79 EXTERNAL REVIEW

My name is Ruth Mills. I am president of the board of the Nevada Health Care Reform Project. Our project will be ten years old this year. We started with about a dozen organizations organized by the League of Women Voters and now have approximately one hundred member organizations representing over one half million Nevadans. We recently welcomed the Nevada Alliance for Retired Americans and the Nevada Association of Social Workers.

We are a coalition of consumers, organized labor, seniors, disability groups, religious organizations and health care professionals. Our mission is to assure all Nevadans comprehensive and affordable health care coverage and improve the quality of health care.

As the last part of the Patient Protection Act you enacted six years ago we have written legislation, AB79 to further protect the individual with an external review of their situation in the event they are denied insurance coverage. It minimizes the need for law suits to resolve conflict. Thirty-four states already have such legislation and the Nevada insurance industry has agreed it is necessary.

It is our understanding that we have negotiated any differences we may have had with the insurance industry over this legislation and are now united in our request for acceptance of AB 79.

Nevada's health care needs are numerous and we face many challenges in meeting those needs. This bill is one step in the right direction toward insuring the quality of health care in our state. We look forward to working with the committee on the other health care issues we face.

Please pass AB79.

- ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION
- AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION
- AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN
- AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR-CIO
- ARTHRITIS FOUNDATION
- CHURCH WOMEN UNITED
- CLARK COUNTY MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION
- CULINARY WORKERS UNION LOCAL #226
- HEALTH INSIGHT
- HEMOPHILIA FOUNDATION OF NEVADA
- LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEVADA
- LUTHERAN ADVOCACY MINISTRY IN NEVADA
- MEN'S CRUSADE AGAINST BREAST CANCER
- NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS, NEVADA
- NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY (NEVADA CHAPTER)
- NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN
- NEVADA ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS
- NEVADA COMMUNITY ENRICHMENT PROGRAM
- NEVADA COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES ADMINISTRATORS
- NEVADA DIETETIC ASSOCIATION
- NEVADA HEALTH CARE ASSOCIATION
- NEVADA HEALTH CENTERS
- NEVADA LAWYERS FOR PROGRESSIVE POLICY
- NEVADA NURSES ASSOCIATION
- NEVADA OPTICIAN LEADERS FORUM ON DISABILITY
- NEVADA SERVICE EMPLOYEES UNION SHU 1197
- NEVADA STATE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
- NEVADA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
- NEVADA TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
- NEVADA WOMEN'S LOBBY
- PILOT INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION
- PLANNED PARENTHOOD (NEVADA CHAPTER) (MAY MONTH)
- PROGRESSIVE LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE OF NEVADA
- RELIGIOUS ALLIANCE IN NEVADA
- SENIORS UNITED
- SOHOPTOMIST INTERNATIONAL OF GREATER LAS VEGAS
- STEROID WARNING NETWORK
- WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT CENTER

EXHIBIT L Committee on Commerce/Labor

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