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March 26, 2003

Re: Senate Bill 352

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Finance,

Good morning Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee. For the record, my name is Buffy Martin and I serve as the Government Relations Director for the American Cancer Society. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 352.

The two actions of Senate Bill 352 could establish Nevada as a leader in cancer research and treatment. The Nevada Cancer Institute, which is currently underway in southern Nevada, is positioned to become a state of the art research and treatment center. Nevada is grossly lacking in cancer treatment and research. By designating the Nevada Cancer Institute as the official cancer institute of the state of Nevada, you will send a strong message of support to victims and survivors of cancer.

The other action of Senate Bill 352, the appropriation for the creation of the infrastructure needed to establish an oral cancer and forensic institute could save lives. According to the American Cancer Society, an estimated 27,700 new cases of oral cancer are expected in 2003 nationally. Unfortunately, it is estimated that about 7,200 Americans will die from oral cancer in 2003. The main causes of this cancer include cigarette, cigar or pipe smoking, smokeless tobacco use and excessive consumption of alcohol.

By creating an oral cancer institute, we could help stem the incidence and death rate of oral cancers.

On behalf of the American Cancer Society and our volunteers, we urge you to support Senate Bill 352.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Buffy Gail Martin*

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