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Committee on Government Affairs  
Nevada State Senate  
April 28, 2003  
Assembly Bill 3 as amended April 15, 2003

Statement by  
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Novartis Pharmaceuticals

Novartis Pharmaceuticals, located in Basel Switzerland with US headquarters in East Hanover, New Jersey, is a world leader in the research, development and manufacture of prescription pharmaceuticals.

According to figures provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the National Kidney Foundation, there are nearly 80-thousand people waiting for organ and tissue transplants in the United States – and, no doubt, there is at least one Nevadan on that waiting list

An equally startling statistic – that number increases by one hundred a day.

There is a critical shortage.

The purpose of AB 3 is to increase the number of live donors to help relieve this critical shortage by eliminating loss of income during the time for the organ donation procedure and the recovery.

While AB 3 probably would not cover all the time off work needed to donate an organ or bone marrow, it would reduce a significant barrier for state employees to become donors.

Since it was first introduced at the start of Session, Assembly Bill three has been amended to respond to a number of issues. There is no longer an un-funded state mandate on counties and municipalities to duplicate the program the bill establishes for state employees. Rather, cities and counties are given the option of initiating paid employee leave programs on their own.

Additionally, the bill has been amended to allow for employees to share their through created pools of leave time to be used when employees have exhausted their paid leave.

According to research by the Legislative Counsel Bureau, the fiscal impact of AB 3 would be just over \$1,500.00 (fifteen hundred dollars) a year. Additional costs were effectively eliminated by allowing counties and municipalities to participate in paid leave programs at their own option.

Similar legislation passed in Wisconsin, Missouri, Utah, and last year in California.

Experience reported thus far – one person has taken advantage of the program in Wisconsin.

With enactment of AB 3, we are hopeful the barriers will fall. I urge your “Aye” vote.

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