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Assembly Bill 236
Testimony before the Senate Committee on Government Affairs
May 12, 2003
Tom Wood & Pat Coward

Madame Chair and members-

On behalf of PhRMA, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, I wish to express industry support for Assembly Bill 236.

In 2001, companies through their Patient Assistant Programs - helped an estimated 3.6 million patients fill at no cost to them, more than 10-million prescriptions with an estimated value of \$1.5 billion. Last year, those numbers jumped to 5.4 million patients and 14-million free prescriptions

In 2001, Nevada only utilized these services for 9,056 patients qualifying this state as one of the lowest users of this free program.

AB 236 – would help address this program by linking the Office of Consumer Assistance to the availability of the Patient Assistance Program.

It is “PhRMA’s” assertion that any effort to increase use of this free program would offset any costs that may be associated with it through reduction of emergency room visits, hospitalizations, physician visits and other uncompensated care that currently takes place.

To this end, PhRMA has created a more user-friendly web site – “Helping Patients.Org” Which can be accessed free by patient, doctor or other health care professional, family member or caregiver. You can even do it right now, on your laptops....

In summary, AB 236 is a good effort to help Nevadans access the free Patient Assistance Programs and Nevada help catch up with the rest of the nation.