

DISCLAIMER

Electronic versions of the exhibits in these minutes may not be complete.

This information is supplied as an informational service only and should not be relied upon as an official record.

Original exhibits are on file at the Legislative Counsel Bureau Research Library in Carson City.

Contact the Library at (775) 684-6827 or library@lcb.state.nv.us.

Nevada Alliance *for* Retired Americans

2808 Pamela Place • Minden, Nevada 89423
(775) 267-4411 • Fax: (775) 267-3513
e-mail: nvstateara@cs.com

March 4, 2003

Chairman Amodel and Committee Members-

My name is Scott Watts, and I am the President of NARA. I am speaking in opposition to Senate Bill 97.

Last Thursday, February 27th, the Nevadans for Quality Health Care held a rally on the steps outside. NARA strongly supports their position that all Nevadas are entitled to quality health care.

On behalf of our members throughout the State of Nevada.... Our Executive Board recognized the serious problems that result from the issue of Medical Malpractice. Our Legislative Committee has identified at least seven different pieces of legislation that have been introduced this year that could affect our members.

Because seniors tend to have many more medical problems, and visit doctors more often, many of the pieces of legislation that have been introduced, could financially harm our members. Many seniors already are making decisions about paying for medical bills and medication or eating. It is a tough choice that should not face our older residents.

Because of these reasons we urge the Legislators of the 2003 Session to do the following:

- It is urgent that whatever is done with this bill that it provides justice and fairness for working families and seniors.
- We strongly support that a better examination process for medical errors be explored and thoroughly by persons other than doctors.

 Alliance
for Retired
Americans



- **We are not convinced that caps on awards will achieve the desired results.**
- **Errors by physicians or other health care workers is just not about money... it is about pain and suffering that the families of these patients go through.**
- **There has not been an exodus of doctors out of the state as we have been lead to believe... only 35 doctors have left Nevada, while over 335 new doctors have come into the state based on registrations. This statistic we can prove.**
- **And as a side note, the option of doctors to charge patients for their office visits to offset the doctor's increase in Medical insurance premiums is completely wrong and unfair to patients.. many of which are families, seniors and the working poor. The villains here are the insurance companies. We have heard a great deal of discussions that putting a cap of malpractice awards will lower premiums. We have not heard of that happened in any case. Why are the insurance companies silent on this issue?**

Thank you for your attention.