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*TESTIMONY ON SB 308  
KATY SINGLAUB  
WASHOE COUNTY MANAGER  
APRIL 1, 2003*

Good evening, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. For the record, my name is Katy Singlaub, and I am the County Manager for Washoe County. I would like to make a few brief comments to add to what has been said about SB 308.

**First, we are increasingly alarmed that the rise in demands for services provided by our County is growing at a much faster rate than revenues:**

- A 34% increase in District Court case filings in one year;
- A 12% increase in child abuse and neglect reports in one year;
- A 20% increase in the number of sexual assault victims examined;
- A 12 % increase in applications for temporary assistance to needy families;
- A 30% increase in immunizations;
- **A 275% increase in criminal charges of battery with substantial bodily harm committed by juveniles;**
- A increase of 2.4 days in the average stay of inmates in our jail in the past three years (multiplied times 22,000 annual bookings, it's a daunting number);
- Average daily population in our juvenile detention facility at 86, when the maximum recommended capacity is 51, and the one-day population peaked at 106 in 2002;
- And so on. We are struggling now to keep up with these demands that touch every life in our community in one way or another...

These increases are occurring while our property and sales tax revenues per capita have actually declined for the past two years when inflation is accounted for.

Second, this legislation would mean a revenue cut of \$24.9 to \$32.7 million in the next biennium ...the equivalent of 257 positions in public safety, health, probation, social services, and the rest. It's important to note that this would be on top of the \$29 million we have had already had to cut in the current year and next. We have already eliminated 45 positions, cut \$1 million of our vehicle fleet, sold County real property, eliminated management salary adjustments for next year, have asked our employees for voluntary wage reductions, and almost 7% of our workforce is currently being held vacant for 9 months. The budget shortfall that we are already addressing, before the impacts of this legislation, means closures of health department service, libraries closed to children and families on selected days, Foster Grandparent programs being cut at juvenile hall, and a long list of challenges in meeting our statutory responsibilities to the citizens of our state that live in Washoe County.

We support the State's needs for new revenues, and our Board passed a unanimous resolution in support of broadening the revenue base for the State. We cannot, however, sustain the cuts that are contemplated without devastating impacts on our citizens. We depend upon the Legislature for all our authority, our revenue sources, and our mandated responsibilities. We serve the people you serve. We respectfully request that you follow the guidance of the Governor's Task Force and not support shifting needed revenue from the local governments to the State.