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**Assembly Commerce and Labor Committee**  
**February 10, 2003**  
**Testimony by Debra Scott, MS, RN, Executive Director**  
**Nevada State Board of Nursing**

Chairman Goldwater and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Assembly Bill 22.

Among the responsibilities of the Nevada State Board of Nursing is approving programs of nursing education. To obtain a Nevada nursing license, students must graduate from a Board-approved, nationally accredited nursing education program and pass the national test (National Council Licensure Examination). These licensing requirements are two important ways the Nevada State Board of Nursing helps ensure that nurses are safe and competent to practice.

The Board of Nursing grants approval to nursing programs based on accreditation from a nationally recognized accreditation body. Due to the nature of the accreditation process, the Board will grant approval for the program while it is seeking accreditation.

Last year, a group of licensed practical nursing students from the Community College of Southern Nevada got caught in a Catch 22. The accreditation process had taken longer than expected and they were graduating from a program that was approved by the Board, but not yet accredited. In reviewing our statutes, the Board was able to find a way to allow the students to take the national test and apply for licensure.

AB22 cleans up the language in this statute to clearly state that students graduating from a nursing program approved by the Board and in the "process of accreditation" will be considered by the Board as graduating from an accredited school of nursing.

In this time of a critical nursing shortage, this bill removes an unnecessary regulatory barrier to the licensing of qualified, competent individuals in the profession of nursing.

ASSEMBLY COMMERCE & LABOR  
DATE: 2/10/03 ROOM: Y100 EXHIBIT D  
SUBMITTED BY: Debra Scott