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Judi Booe
Legislative Committee Chair

3/1/2003

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March 3, 2003
Assembly Bill 79

(Provides for external review for certain determinations made by managed care organizations and HMO's.)

Chairman Goldwater and Members of the Committee,

My name is Judi Booe and I am here today representing NARA (Nevada Alliance for Retired Americans). We represent thousands of retirees and seniors in Nevada. I speak in support of this bill because of the seriousness of this issue on our members.

As you know, health care is an enormous issue that faces our older Nevada residents. Because they have continuous health problems, they visit doctors more often than most residents of Nevada. In addition they are inundated with paperwork that not easily understood.

NARA believes that it is imperative to provide oversight to any external review organization when it will affect seniors. The importance of a timely determination cannot be stressed enough. Time is not a luxury that many in their older years possess.

It is also important that the external review organization not be affiliated with a health plan. Many health plans utilize "risk management" techniques that are not in the best interest of all patients. This affects our senior citizens in many ways.

I hope that you will be able to pass Assemblywoman Buckley's bill in its entirety. Thank you for your attention.

 Nevada Alliance for Retired Americans

ASSEMBLY COMMERCE & LABOR

DATE: 3/03/03 ROOM: 400 EXHIBIT I

SUBMITTED BY: Judy Booe