

## 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](mailto:library@lcb.state.nv.us).


ed Parenthood

455 West Fifth Street  
Reno, NV 89503-4413

 **Planned Parenthood**  
Mar Monte

455 West Fifth Street  
Reno, NV 89503-4413

T: 775-688-5555  
F: 775-688-5599  
www.ppmarmonte.org

 Our mission is to ensure that everyone has the knowledge, opportunity and freedom to make every child a wanted child and every family a healthy family.

T: 775-688-5555  
F: 775-688-5599  
www.ppmarmonte.org

March 5, 2003

Assemblyman David Goldwater, Chair Commerce and Labor Committee  
Nevada State Legislature

RE: A.B. 144

Dear Chairman Goldwater and Committee Members:

For the record, my name is Pat Elzy. I am the Director of Public Affairs for Planned Parenthood Mar Monte in Northern Nevada. I represent both Planned Parenthood Mar Monte and Planned Parenthood of Southern Nevada. This testimony is to go on record that Planned Parenthood supports A.B. 144. This bill would require a pharmacist to dispense a prescription or refer the prescription to another pharmacist at the facility or to another facility. Planned Parenthood believes that all legal prescriptions should be dispensed. Unfortunately that is not the case in Nevada.

Planned Parenthood became aware of this situation when a woman who wished to remain anonymous called our Reno health center in 2001 concerned that a pharmacist in Carson City refused to fill her birth control prescription. This woman was not told she could go to another pharmacy to get her prescription filled. She began to question why a pharmacist would deny dispensing a prescription that her medical doctor had provided her. This concern prompted her to call Planned Parenthood to see if a pharmacist could really refuse to fill a legal medical prescription.

Our staff then researched regulations and determined that courts have held that a pharmacy may refuse service and that a pharmacist may not dispense every prescription brought to him or her. When a doctor or practitioner prescribes a prescription it is in the best interest of the patient to get the medication prescribed. It should not be up to a pharmacist to override a physician's decision. Our goal is to regulate assurance of quality pharmaceutical care by directing the patient to a resource to obtain a doctor or practitioners order.

Planned Parenthood staff attempted to address this situation through regulatory language with the Nevada State Board of Pharmacy in 2001. The Nevada State Board of Pharmacy staff was willing to amend a prescription filling regulation that would allow a pharmacist who refused to dispense a prescription to then refer the prescription to another pharmacist at the facility or to another pharmacy. However, at public testimony in October of 2001, the proposed amendment was then defeated.

A.B. 144 assures adequate access to health care for women and men by guaranteeing them that a prescription provided by their physician or practitioner will be dispensed or referred to another pharmacist. It also requires a pharmacist to notify his employer first

**ORIGINALS ARE ON FILE IN  
THE RESEARCH LIBRARY**

ASSEMBLY COMMERCE & LABOR 183

DATE: 3/10/03 ROOM: 400 EXHIBIT K

SUBMITTED BY: Pat Elzy

that he has refrained from dispensing a certain prescription due to a genuinely held religious belief. While everyone has the right to his or her opinion about reproductive health care it is important to remember that a patient's health should be put first. Pharmacists who object to dispensing a prescription should not impose personal views in a way that could affect the health of others. A.B.144 strikes a balance between the individual rights of pharmacists and their professional responsibility to their patients. I ask you to support A.B. 144.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Pat Elzy".

Pat Elzy, M.P.A.  
Director of Public Affairs  
Planned Parenthood Mar Monte

ed Parenthood


455 West Fifth Street  
Reno, NV 89503-4413

T: 775-688-5560  
F: 775-688-5599  
www.ppmarmonte.org

 **Planned Parenthood**  
Mar Monte

455 West Fifth Street  
Reno, NV 89503-4413

T: 775-688-5560  
F: 775-688-5599  
www.ppmarmonte.org

 Our mission is to ensure  
that everyone has the  
knowledge, opportunity and  
freedom to make every  
child a wanted child and  
every family a healthy family.

## Assembly Bill 144

*This bill establishes a principle for pharmacists when dispensing or refilling prescriptions under certain circumstances.*

Planned Parenthood Mar Monte and Planned Parenthood of Southern Nevada support this bill because:

- All legal prescriptions should be dispensed.
- It should not be up to the pharmacist to override a physician's decision.
- Providing and dispensing medication is the professional responsibility of a pharmacist.
- Personal views of a pharmacy or pharmacist should not affect the health care of patients.
- While everyone has the right to his or her opinions about reproductive health care it is important to remember that a patient's health should be first.
- This measure assures a patient that her prescription will be dispensed or referred to another pharmacist for dispensing.