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May 6, 2003
SB 137

Dear Chairperson and members of the committee

Thank you for your excellent work, especially in a real tough time where there is a serious financial crunch.

Thank you for the opportunity being here and address you through the use an interpreter.

My name is Gary W. Olsen. I am currently the Director/Advocate of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advocacy Resource Center here in Carson City.

Representing the Deaf and Hard of Hearing population in Nevada I would like to go on record in support of Senate Bill 137 knowing that, as it is, it will create many opportunities for better and appropriate services, through research, new findings and approaches to issues, for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing tax paying Nevadans.

SB 137 is important because it will no doubt enable greater means of communication between the State Legislature and the disability group in general and the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community in particular. Subtly put, it will enable our Deaf and Hard of Hearing Citizens to be HEARD and hopefully have our Legislators LISTEN to our concerns and become truly representative of our needs.

All too often such specific issues related to our communication disability such as education, employment and the general welfare are overlooked, ignored or lost in the auditory world. This bill complimented with several other bills in the current legislature no doubt will change that in due time.

Senate Bill 137 will pave better ways for greater collaboration between the government and the disabled people, the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in particular.

We are confident it will make a difference in the lives of our people in Nevada.

Please support it wholeheartedly.

Thank you.

ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS, PROCEDURES, & ETHICS
DATE: 5/10/03 ROOM: 3130 EXHIBIT G
SUBMITTED BY: Gary Olson