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TESTIMONY AB 73
ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2003 – 8 A.M.

GOOD MORNING, MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. FOR THE RECORD MY NAME IS LARRY SPITLER AND I'M THE ASSOCIATE STATE DIRECTOR FOR ADVOCACY IN NEVADA.

AARP IS A NONPROFIT, NONPARTISAN MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO MAKING LIFE BETTER FOR PEOPLE 50 AND OVER. WE PROVIDE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES; ENGAGE IN LEGISLATIVE, REGULATORY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY; ASSIST MEMBERS IN SERVING THEIR COMMUNITIES; AND OFFER A WIDE RANGE OF UNIQUE BENEFITS, SPECIAL PRODUCTS, AND SERVICES FOR OUR MEMBERS.

WE'RE HERE TODAY TO OFFER OUR SUPPORT FOR AB 73. THE CHANGE IN AGE FROM 65 TO 60 IS APPROPRIATE IN ORDER TO BRING OUR LAW INTO LINE WITH THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT. IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO SUPPORT THE NEW LANGUAGE IN SECTION 2.9. IT STATES THAT, *"IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER PENALTY, A COURT MAY ORDER SUCH A PERSON TO PAY THE COST OF THE INVESTIGATION OR PROSECUTION OF THE CRIME, OR BOTH."* IN TODAY'S ENVIRONMENT, THE COST OF EXPERT WITNESSES CAN BE VERY HIGH AND IT SEEMS APPROPRIATE THAT THE COURT HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ORDER SUCH ASSESSMENTS IF, AFTER HEARING ALL THE FACTS RELATED TO THE CASE, IT DEEMS THAT ASSESSMENT IS APPROPRIATE. AARP SUPPORTS THE ENACTMENT AND ENFORCEMENT OF LAWS THAT MAKE IT A CRIMINAL OFFENSE, WITH ENHANCED PENALTIES, WHEN A VULNERABLE ADULT HAS BEEN FOUND TO BE ABUSED, NEGLECTED OR EXPLOITED. WE FEEL THIS MEASURE SUPPORTS "ENHANCED PENALTIES."

WE THANK YOU FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE OUR THOUGHTS ON AB 73.