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May 1, 2003

Assemblyman Bernie Anderson  
Chairman, Assembly Judiciary Committee  
Nevada State Legislature  
401 S. Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Re: SB 224

Dear Chairman Anderson and Committee members:

The Attorney General's Office supports SB 224 because it establishes the right of a victim of domestic violence to designate an attendant to provide support during any civil or criminal proceeding. Through our office's direct involvement with domestic violence victims and our collaborative efforts with victim service programs, we know how crucial it is for a domestic violence victim to have the support of another person during court proceedings.

Victims of domestic violence are frequently intimidated and fearful in the presence of their abuser, the adverse party. These real feelings of intimidation and fear are compounded by the often intimidating judicial system. Having an attendant accompanying a victim can alleviate these feelings and fears, and can facilitate the victim's effective participation in court proceedings.

Nevada law does not currently provide assurance that a victim of domestic violence can have the support of an attendant throughout any and all court proceedings. We urge you to pass this bill to maximize the possibility of victims feeling safe, supported and encouraged to participate in the justice system.

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY

DATE: 5/1/03 ROOM: 3138 EXHIBIT 6

SUBMITTED BY: Nancy Hart

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I will be available at the committee hearing to answer any questions that you or other committee members may have. Please feel free to contact me at any time if I can be of further assistance.

Sincere regards,

BRIAN SANDOVAL  
Attorney General

By: Nancy E. Hart  
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