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Temporary Assistance for Domestic Crisis

2915 W. Charleston, Ste. 12  
Las Vegas, NV 89102

**Trudy Burke-Creazzo**  
**VICTIM ADVOCATE**  
877-0133 Ext. ~~237~~ **250**

*"Domestic Violence Experts for over 20 Years"*

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ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY

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

SUBMITTED BY: T. Burke-Creazzo

**memo**

**Date : March 13, 2003.**  
**To : JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**  
**From : Mandi Zambai**  
**RE : BILL 224 - SUPPORT PERSON IN COURT ROOM**

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Dear Judiciary Committee:

I am writing in support of the Bill number 224 relative to having a support person present in the court room.

Having been the victim of domestic violence, I can speak of the importance of having a support system by your side. Briefly, I was in an abusive relationship with my child's father for four years. When I finally made the decision to leave the relationship and obtain help for myself and my daughter, I found the assistance and support of the Safe Nest. Without this support, I would inevitably have found myself back in the same relationship and possibly not be here today to support this very important bill.

Having to appear in court was a very difficult and frightening experience. Appearing twice without an attorney and three times with an attorney, my advocate was there beside me EVERY time. Lawyers and advocates/support persons each serve a specific purpose to the VICTIM. The attorney is there to take care of all of the "legal" aspects of each issue. Our advocate/support person is there to help us deal with our emotions, and our general well-being.

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Our thoughts and what we know is "right" in our heads doesn't always connect with what we are feeling. That is where the support of another person standing by our sides telling us "You are doing the right thing", holding our hands, talking to us...just supporting us in every way is so very, very important. Without that support, it is too easy to "give in", decide not to testify against the perpetrators and again, without a doubt, be right back in the exact situation I was trying to get out of.

In conclusion, I support this bill 100% and I hope that you too, will see the importance of having a support system by the side of each and every victim of domestic violence. Thousands of people are dedicating their lives to fight domestic violence and this bill is yet another step in continuing this effort.

Thank you for your time...please support bill number 224.

Very truly yours,

*Mandi M. Zambai*

Mandi M. Zambai

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## Temporary Assistance for Domestic Crisis, Inc.

March 14, 2003

Nevada State Senate  
Legislative Building  
Carson City, Nevada 89710

Re: SB 224  
Support Person in Courtroom

Members of the Senate:

**I am a Domestic Violence Victim Advocate with Safe Nest. I have 10 years experience working with victims of violence. Part of my duties includes court accompaniment with victims. The majority of these victims would have no support if not for the advocate.**

**Often in divorce and custody proceedings an abuser or his /her attorney will request the judge to close the courtroom, leaving an already frightened victim totally alone.**

**Because of this I urge you to please support SB224.**

**Thank you for your attention.**

**Sincerely,**

**Trudy Burke-Creazzo  
Victim Advocate**

2915 W. Charleston, Suite 12 • Las Vegas, NV 89102

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