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Department of Family Services

Child Protective Services

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Susan Klein-Rothschild, Director • Joy L. Salmon, Assistant Director • Carol Stilian, Manager • Ann Rubin, Assistant Manager

13 March 2003

Judiciary Committee of Nevada State

Re: SB 224

attn: In Support Person

TO Whom This May Concern:

Hi, my name is Lisa Ford, Jr. Child Protective Services Specialist with Dept of Family Services in Clark County, Nevada.

I was involved with the Domestic Violence Unit of Child Protective Services for three years, and I continue to advocate for the victims of domestic violence.

I have had many opportunities to work with the Safe Nest + Safe Home Domestic Violence advocates. The advocates provide a wonderful support system to the victims. The victims need to have their advocate in all court proceedings. This allows the advocates to continue to validate the victim's worthiness as a person. The advocates presence in the courtroom helps to empower the victim, so the victim is not alone. The advocates presence will remind judges that there is truth to her story and she needs to be provided

BOARD OF COUNTY COM
DARIO HERRERA, Chairman • MYRN
KIM VERNAN • MARY KONGALICHIA

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY

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

SUBMITTED BY: Lisa Ford

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the same respect as the perpetrator and the perpetrator's lawyer.

When the advocates are assigned their cases, they explain to the victim that someone does believe their story, and the best way for the advocate to show the victim, is to attend every court hearing with that victim. Otherwise, it is meaningless to have domestic violence advocates, because we are going backwards in time, where the victims had no rights because there were no victims.

Let's continue to go forward and allow the victims to have their domestic violence advocate with them, in every court proceeding.

Sincerely,

Lisa Ford

Sr. Child Protective Services Specialist

(702) 455-7217



Department of Family Services

Lisa Ford

Senior Child Protective Services Specialist

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