

DISCLAIMER

Electronic versions of the exhibits in these minutes may not be complete.

This information is supplied as an informational service only and should not be relied upon as an official record.

Original exhibits are on file at the Legislative Counsel Bureau Research Library in Carson City.

Contact the Library at (775) 684-6827 or library@lcb.state.nv.us.

memo

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

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.

03/13/03

Confidential

1

ASSEMBLY JUDICIARY

DATE: 5/1/03 ROOM: 3138 EXHIBIT

SUBMITTED BY: M. Zambal

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

03/13/2003

Confidential

2

M 2082