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Nevada Women's Lobby

Testimony before the Senate and Assembly Taxation Committees
In Support of AB204 and SB219
March 6, 2003

Why Would Anyone Want Higher Taxes?

Why new taxes?

- So Nevadans won't suffer.
- Because the current system needs fixing.
- Because it is the right thing to do.

Because without more revenue, Nevadans will suffer

Nevada's state budget has been cut each of the previous three legislative sessions as state revenue has failed to keep up with the growing population. Department budgets have reached critical levels and cannot absorb more cuts, the only alternative to increasing revenue.

Whereas previous administrations have made serious cuts in social services when the economic picture was grim, Governor Guinn has kept these critical services available to those in need by expending all available state resources.

Without an infusion of new money now, we may once again be looking at ending or curtailing some services to the elderly, the poor and the disabled.

Because it is the right thing to do

Nevada Women's Lobby urges members of the Senate and the Assembly to show bi-partisan support for new state revenue now!

The state budget has been depleted this year due to the poor economy. And yet, it is in times like this, that the state is called upon to meet ever-increasing need for social services.

Nevada's history of always being at or near the bottom in the nation in every index of social well being doesn't give us room to cut services any further.

Nevada Women's Lobby asks that stopgap measures such as proposed by Governor Guinn in AB 204 and SB219 be put into place to provide needed revenues right now. Without this, students, senior citizens, the poor and the mentally ill will suffer if programs have to be cut.