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## TESTIMONY OF MARY BRYANT

Senate Bill 164

Assembly Ways & Means  
Committee

MAY 20, 2003



My name is Mary Bryant. I am the vice-chair person of the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities. I am also the mother of the two little girls pictured here, Kailin and Eilish Kelderman. Kailin has Down Syndrome.

As a parent, I have a very personal interest in our state treating people with disabilities with dignity and respect. Even more important, it is time that people with disabilities become full citizens in Nevada. Currently Kailin is fully included in 1<sup>st</sup> grade in our neighborhood school, is a Girl Scout, takes a Funk Hip Hop dance class and has been a Yoga student for four years. As an adult, I want her to have all of the same choices in life that her little sister will have. Kailin is eight years old now, so we have 10 years to fix things.

I am here as a parent and on behalf of the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities. Many of us on the DD Council were very involved in developing the new Strategic Plan for People with Disabilities. We support the Plan and feel that the timing is right in our state for it to go forward.

We believe that the new Office of Disability is the best way to assure that the strategic plan is implemented. The DD Council strongly supports the new Office of Disability and is pleased to be included as part of the new department.

Mary Bryant  
2260 Jester Ct.  
Reno, NV 89503

ASSEMBLY WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: 5/20/03 ROOM: 3137 EXHIBIT D

SUBMITTED BY: Ms. Mary Bryant