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Thank you Chairman Arberry, members of the Committee.

Hello, my name is Gary W. Olsen I am the Director/Advocate for NVAD's Deaf and Hard of Hearing Advocacy Resource Center in Carson City. I want to thank you for your hard work during this tough session and hope you will be able to resolve most of the financial matters. On behalf of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Nevadans, I am here because we want to ask you to fully support SB 164 as amended. This bill will be a landmark, should you all support it, to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing as well as to other people with disabilities in Nevada. This bill recognizes the needs of the people with communication disabilities, provides an opportunity to succeed in life through service programs and above all enable us to break down the communication barriers that exist in this State. For too long programs designed to serve the needs of the communicative disabled have always been first to go when it comes to budget cuts. This bill will change that. Yet, this bill does not cost the State any money in fact it will save the State up to \$110,000 annually to be used for other needs. Please support this bill and help make a difference in the lives of the people with disabilities. Thank you very much.

RE: SB 164 5/22/03

ASSEMBLY WAYS AND MEANS

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

SUBMITTED BY: Mr. Gary Olsen