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May 28th, 2003

Chairman Morse Arberry, Jr.
Assembly Ways and Means Committee
Nevada State Legislature

Re: Senate Bill 352

Dear Chairman Arberry,

Tomorrow morning your committee will hear a bill that will dramatically impact the lives of cancer patients and their families in Nevada. Senate Bill 352 is simple in nature: it officially designates the Nevada Cancer Institute as the official comprehensive cancer care center of Nevada. This action, although appearing honorary, is actually not. Being designated the official comprehensive cancer effort of Nevada is necessary for our facility to receive future federal funding.

In February 2003, I traveled to Washington D. C. to lobby for federal appropriations for the Nevada Cancer Institute. Fortunately for cancer patients in our state, our efforts were successful and we were granted \$1.9 million in federal dollars. However, we can only tap into certain types of funding if Senate Bill 352 is passed into law.

The Nevada Cancer Institute is a non profit research and care facility dedicated to the prevention, education and treatment of cancer in the state of Nevada. Prior to the founding of the Nevada Cancer Institute, Nevada had not established previous plans of constructing such a facility. As a result, Nevadans did not have access to a state of the art comprehensive cancer care center in their own state, causing them at great emotional and financial costs to leave the state. Now we can offer the very best cancer services to our citizens.

Furthermore, we reached a major milestone on May 27th, in which we broke ground in Southern Nevada to begin construction of the Nevada Cancer Institute. We expect to be fully operational by December 2004.

On behalf of the Nevada Cancer Institute and the patients and families we will be serving, we ask you to support and pass Senate Bill 352.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Heather Murren'.

Heather Murren
President

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ASSEMBLY WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: 5-29-03 ROOM: 3137 EXHIBIT E

SUBMITTED BY: Heather Murren

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