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# Nancy H. Neill

572 W. Gilia Place, Spring Creek, Nevada 89815

February 17, 2003

Nevada Legislature  
72<sup>nd</sup> Session Meetings  
Carson City, Nevada 89704

To whom it may concern:

My name is Nancy Neill and I live in Elko, Nevada.

Governor Guinn's proposal to increase taxes to help balance the budget may be an issue for Rural Regional who helps provide special services and programs to the rural communities in Nevada. I understand large businesses are opposed to this increase and I can appreciate their concerns. I also understand that certain monies are allocated to each of our "special" people from the federal government. It seems that services and programs are continually being cut. Where is this money?

Another issue is the waiting list is in danger of being cut. This list consists of special people who need training and services to help with everyday life so they may live to their fullest potential. Again, there is money allocated to them, where is it?

My 10 year old son is both mentally and physically challenged. Services and programs to help him are constantly being cut back. Again, there is money allocated to him, where is it?

In 1997 we had no choice but to send our 4 ½ year old son to Utah because there were no services or programs in Nevada to take care of his special needs. It didn't make sense to be sending money to another state to take care of our child. This does nothing to help our economy. It makes sense to keep these dollars within our own state.

In 2000 our son returned to Nevada. Since then many hours of services have been taken away from him. As a parent of a special needs child, I'm tired of fighting for what's right. We all know that early intervention is the key to children's success. This also goes for children with special needs.

Nevada ranks low nationwide for services and programs concerning people with special needs. It doesn't need to be. We have many, many people who are out there willing to help. Our little town of Elko is a very generous community and has a heart of gold. There are so many people wanting to work with our special people who are being turned away because of budget cuts.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



Nancy H. Neill

EXHIBIT Y Senate Committee on Finance

Date: 2/17/03 Page 1 of 2



EXHIBIT Y Senate Committee on Finance

Date: 2/17/03 Page 2 of 2