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Good morning, thank you for inviting me to speak to you. My name is Robin Renshaw. I'm a native of Nevada, born and raised in Las Vegas. I have had Cerebral Palsy all of my life. I'm a Transition Specialist for Nevada PEP (Parents Encouraging Parents) - which is Parents, Training, and Information Center for the state of Nevada. In my job, I have become a strong advocate for disability issues. I'm also a substitute teacher for Clark County School District. After substituting for a while, I've decided to attend U.N.L.V. to earn a degree in teaching.

I am currently on SSDI but can only work two to three days a week. If I work more then this, it may cause me to lose my benefits. Many people that I know with disabilities are fearful of the same thing. However, I'm confident that by obtaining my Teaching Degree, I will not only be relieved of working fewer hours a week, but I can get off of Social Security Disability all together. Until I do get off of Social Security Disability, I'm still in need of medical insurance. I know that I speak on behalf of the thousands of people with disabilities when I say that they are as well.

My dream as well as other's is dependent on the proposed HIWA. Many people with disabilities do want to go work, but without medical insurance, their desire is overshadowed. One day while substituting, a student came up to me and said: "don't go." On behalf of the other members of the Advisory Committee, we too ask you not to go. Thank you.

SUBCOMMITTEE K-12 / Human Resources
DATE: 2/27/03 ROOM 3137 EXHIBIT E
SUBMITTED BY: Robin Renshaw