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DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WASHOE COUNTY DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT TESTIMONY REGARDING SB 82

February 26, 2003

My name is Stephanie Beck. I represent the Washoe County District Health Department, and am the Department's Emergency Medical Services Coordinator. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. The Washoe County District Board of Health and the Health Department staff appreciate the efforts of the Interim Legislative Committee on Health Care to introduce a bill that clarifies the authority of public health agencies during public health emergencies. Over the last year, the Washoe County District Health Department staff has provided testimony to the committee, and written comments to Senator Rawson, the Chairman.

BACKGROUND

Staff support SB 82, and have recommended only 1 amendment. Staff's support of SB 82 and staff's recommended amendment are being presented to our District Board of Health at the same time as this committee hearing for their formal approval.

The bill clarifies current legislative language to include isolation or quarantine not only of persons, but groups of persons. Because of the large numbers of visitors to our Health District, from within and outside of Nevada, filing an involuntary isolation or quarantine petition with the district court where the person resides is not feasible. We suggest the language be changed to reflect the petition be filed where the isolation or quarantine is to occur.

SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS

Suggested deletions are shown in brackets with strikethroughs [---].

Revise Section 14 to read:

"A proceeding for an involuntary court-ordered isolation or quarantine of any person in this state may be commenced by a health authority filing a petition with the clerk of the district court of the county where the person [who] is to be isolated or quarantined [resides]."

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee. I will happy to answer any questions you may have.

Stephanie Beck, RN

Stephanie Beck, RN
EMS Coordinator
Washoe County District Health Department

EXHIBIT G Senate Comm. on HR and Facilities

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