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*Legislative Affairs hearing
Tuesday, March 11, 2003
Grant Sawyer Building, room 4412*

Hello, my name is Reggie Bennett. For eight years, I have been the southern Nevada coordinator for the Independent Living Services Program. We provide home and vehicle modifications, and other services, that make it possible for Nevadans with disabilities to live independently in the community—and, to be less dependent on public resources for their care.

I am very pleased that you are considering support for Nevada's Strategic Plan for People with Disabilities, and for the Legislative Committee on People with Disabilities. These two initiatives-- along with SB 164, which establishes the Office of Disability Services-- represent real and sensible improvements in how our state addresses disability issues.

As someone on the front lines, who has seen and experienced what it means to confront and overcome disabilities, I can say that the measures you are contemplating are a great blueprint for the future. The strategic plan is the roadmap, the Office of Disabilities Services is the vehicle, and the legislative committee is the engine. Together, they will ensure productive and sensible disability policy in Nevada.

Honestly, I don't see any negatives in these bills. I strongly encourage you to pass SB 137, SCR 10, and SB 164. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.