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MAY 09 2008

Office of the Governor
Carson City, NV

Nevada Legislature

May 9, 2008

Honorable Jim Gibbons
Capitol Building

Dear Governor Gibbons:

As you are aware, on April 25, 2008, we sent you a letter outlining our concerns about the serious public health crisis caused by the unsafe practices used at the Endoscopy Center of Southern Nevada and the possible exposure of up to 50,000 Nevadans to Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B and HIV. In that letter, we specifically requested that you appoint a special counsel to "conduct a thorough, complete and independent investigation" into the conduct of each physician who was practicing medicine at the Endoscopy Center during the relevant period.

A full two weeks have passed since we sent you that letter and we have not received a response. According to the most recent media reports, the Southern Nevada Health District has identified 77 potential Hepatitis C infections which may be linked to the Endoscopy Center. This is an alarming increase from the 8 cases that were previously linked to the Center at the time of our first letter.

Media reports also indicate that the Board of Medical Examiners is responding to this crisis in a manner which protects the doctors practicing at the Endoscopy Center rather than the general public. Pursuant to NRS 630.003, the Nevada Legislature has made the following declaration concerning the authority conferred on the Board of Medical Examiners to regulate physicians in Nevada: "The Board must exercise its regulatory power to ensure that the interests of the medical profession do not outweigh the interests of the public." The actions of the Board in response to this crisis have not instilled confidence that the Board understands its role to protect the public from harm caused by physicians who use unsafe medical practices.


Based upon the most recent disturbing reports of the increase in the number of potential cases of Hepatitis C linked to the Endoscopy Center and the seeming unwillingness of the Board of Medical Examiners to fully cooperate in the efforts to

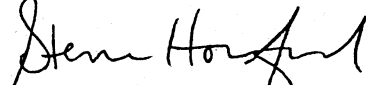
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protect the public and conduct an investigation, we are again requesting that you immediately appoint a special counsel to conduct a thorough, complete and independent investigation into the physicians who were practicing medicine at the Endoscopy Center during the relevant period. The complete findings of that investigation should be provided to the Board of Medical Examiners and to the extent authorized by law, a report of the findings should also be prepared and provided to the Office of the Governor and the Legislative Committee on Health Care.

With each day that passes, we hear of yet another alarming statistic or tragedy that intensifies the severity of this matter. We implore you to assist us in restoring the public confidence that the physicians in this State are practicing under competent regulation. We sincerely believe that at this critical stage, the appointment of a special counsel will begin the first step in the path to ensure the safety of Nevada's residents in response to these tragic occurrences. Your immediate action and response to our inquiry is appreciated.

Sincerely,


Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie
Washoe Assembly District No. 27


Senator Steven Horsford
Clark Senate District No. 4