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Admitted in Nevada 2014
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Mary Woods | Public Information Officer
Nevada Department of Administration
Director's Office
515 E. Musser St.
Carson City, NV 89703

Dear Ms. Woods and Members of the Nevada Commission on Women:

The following is my testimony for today's hearing before this honorable Commission on the subject of what women in Nevada need for success, both in the workforce and to be able to provide for themselves and their families. I would like to speak today on the topic of retirement security for women as they navigate their lives in the workplace and beyond. In preparing for today's hearing I relied on the sources below:

National Institute On Retirement Security (NIRS) March 1, 2016 report:
<http://www.nirsonline.org/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=913>

Wisconsin Retirement System News Online(WRS)-January 20, 2015 "10 Facts About Women and Retirement"
http://etf.wi.gov/news/WRS_news_012015/WRS_012015_art4.htm

"Retirement Security is an issue for all Nevadans" Las Vegas Sun March 15, 2015
<http://lasvegassun.com/news/2015/mar/15/retirement-security-issue-all-nevadans/>

My background is that I have spent most of my professional life practicing law as a licensed attorney in Oregon. I was admitted to the Oregon Bar in 1988 after completing law school and a Federal Judicial Clerkship in Los Angeles, California. My career in Oregon focused mainly on public defender work at both the trial and appellate levels. I have written over 50 appellate briefs for the Oregon Courts. I moved to Nevada in 2006.

I am currently employed part-time as a lobbyist/consultant on Governmental Affairs during the Nevada legislative interim in the same capacity that I served full-time during the 2015 78th Legislative Session for the Retiree Chapter of AFSCME Local 4041.

As we examined our Nevada public employee retirement system (NV PERS) in the 2015 legislative session, a larger discussion regarding retirement security for all, especially for women evolved. To briefly summarize information from the sources above, women face unique challenges in planning for and providing for secure retirements. According to the NIRS 2016 report cited above, women over 65 are more likely to have less income than men, especially as they age-80% of women over 65 were more likely to be impoverished and women ages 75-79 were three times more likely to fall below the poverty level compared to their male counterparts (NIRS).

This is due to a number of factors: Women live longer than men, have less earning power during their working years-resulting in lower retirement savings through employer-sponsored plans, breaks for care giving of family members create gaps in earned benefit programs such as Social Security are more likely to be utilized by women as opposed to men, and women head of household families who are widowed, divorced or single are more likely to face a higher risk of poverty (WRS News Online-January 20, 2015).

So as this Commission examines the status of women in the workforce in Nevada, I hope that the “end game” for women’s working lives also gets some attention in this critical regard. Thank you for inviting me to share these facts.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Maloney