CHAIRPERSON JAMES: With that, I will call our first speaker, Linda Hilton. Welcome.

MS. HILTON: Thank you. Hello, everyone. My name --

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Linda, I'm going to ask you to pull that microphone right up close. Thank you.

MS. HILTON: Hello, everyone. My name is Linda Hilton. I'm here today to speak to you about how my employment in the gaming industry and the medical benefits provided that literally saved my life. Seventeen months ago I was diagnosed with a rare liver disease that I was told would kill me in two to four months. Thanks to a hundred percent medical benefits available because of the gaming industry and the collective efforts of the Culinary Union and my employer the Luxor, at which I'm employed as a food server, I was able to be placed on the organ donor list and miraculously received a donor liver.

Five and a half years ago my husband and two children moved to Las Vegas from Portland, Oregon. I can assure you the wage, medical, dental, optical and pension benefits are practically non-existent compared to Las Vegas. Certainly there is no comparison. In five and a half years of employment in the gaming industry, we have added three children, purchased two homes, and are looking for more. And as I've already mentioned, we were afforded the gift of life. The gift of life not only regarding my life-saving transplant, but how much different life would be for my husband and children had we stayed in...
Oregon. Most medical insurances do not cover organ transplants, or in some circumstances will cover a small percentage of the cost. I would not have been approved to go on the organ donor list because of the inadequate coverage, therefore, not surviving and missing all of these precious family times.

My family and I could never ever say enough on behalf of the casino employers, Culinary Union, insurance coverage and the gaming industry as a whole. There should be no doubt in anybody's eyes who takes an honest good look at Las Vegas that there is a tremendous, positive impact of loving, hard working families.

Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you, Linda.