

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

3 MS. HILTON: Thank you. Hello, everyone. My name
4 --

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

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

17 Five and a half years ago my husband and two
18 children moved to Las Vegas from Portland, Oregon. I can assure
19 you the wage, medical, dental, optical and pension benefits are
20 practically non-existent compared to Las Vegas. Certainly there
21 is no comparison. In five and a half years of employment in the
22 gaming industry, we have added three children, purchased two
23 homes, and are looking for more. And as I've already mentioned,
24 we were afforded the gift of life. The gift of life not only
25 regarding my life- saving transplant, but how much different
26 life would be for my husband and children had we stayed in

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1 Oregon. Most medical insurances do not cover organ transplants,
2 or in some circumstances will cover a small percentage of the
3 cost. I would not have been approved to go on the organ donor
4 list because of the inadequate coverage, therefore, not
5 surviving and missing all of these precious family times.

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

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRPERSON JAMES: Thank you, Linda.

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