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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### LEGISLATORS TO TAKE PART IN PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION PROGRAM Members of the public invited to assist in the planting of pinwheels

**Carson City**—Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Director Mike Willden announced today that in honor of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, Senate Majority Leader William Raggio and Speaker Barbara Buckley have graciously agreed to have members of their legislative bodies display pinwheels and wear specially-designated blue ribbon pins on Thursday, April 5, 2007.

The pinwheels are part of the national Pinwheels for Prevention program, which seeks to increase awareness about child abuse and neglect in communities across the country. Pinwheels representing each child abuse report filed during the previous calendar year are planted in front of courthouses, government offices, playgrounds, libraries, and parks.

Several Nevada communities are taking part in the program, including Reno, Las Vegas, Carson City, Lovelock, Battle Mountain, Winnemucca, Pahrump, Elko, Mesquite, Fallon, Fernley, and Caliente. In all, more than 15,000 pinwheels are being planted across the state, including 422 in front of the Legislature Building in recognition of the number of child abuse reports investigated in Carson City during 2006. **Members of the public are invited to help plant the pinwheels at the Legislature Building, beginning at 10:00 AM.**

"We are grateful for the support the Governor and the Legislature have devoted to this issue during the 2007 Session, and very appreciative of the further recognition child welfare will receive as a result of the displaying of the pinwheels at individual legislator's desks," Willden said.

Governor Jim Gibbons said, "I proudly issued a proclamation designating the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, during which we recognize the many lives that have already been affected by abuse or neglect. The pinwheels planted throughout the state serve as a reminder that each one of us has a responsibility to advocate for child abuse prevention."

“As legislators, we must help create safer environments for our children through strong advocacy and reform,” Senator Raggio said. “By each legislator displaying a pinwheel at his or her desk, we demonstrate our collective will to make significant changes to the present child welfare system.”

Speaker Buckley said, “The pinwheels displayed at each legislator’s desk remind us of the important work we must complete during this legislative session to better protect children from harm. Child welfare reform through greater transparency and added safeguards is one of our top priorities this year.”

The Nevada Division of Child and Family Services will also host a display and information booth on April 5 just outside the Assembly Chamber. For more information on what you can do to help prevent child abuse or to become a foster parent, go to <http://www.dcf.state.nv.us/>.

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