



Improving seniors lives through advocacy, education and leadership.

April 10, 2018

## Public comment to the Legislative Committee on Behavioral and Cognitive Care of Older Persons

Nevada Assisted Living Association would like to submit formal comment on Senate Bill 121 Section 2.5C. Establishing a higher rate of waiver reimbursement by Medicaid for residential facilities for groups, (RFFG), not just nursing facilities. NALA would like to address a solution to some of the testimony from family caregivers and professionals regarding not enough Medicaid placements available for those suffering from Dementia that do not require medical care, but need placement due to wandering, behavioral issues and family caregivers who need respite.

Currently there are approximately 43,000 individuals in the state living with dementia. Between now and 2025 the cost of Alzheimer's to Medicaid in Nevada will increase 71%, from \$158M to \$270M. This is the second highest percent increase of all 50 states. Currently RFFG's are reimbursed at \$30. Per day, while nursing facilities are reimbursed at \$250. Per day approximately. The disabled persons with behavior and cognitive health issues who do not require medical care such as catheters, colostomies, advance wound care, diabetics receiving insulin on sliding scale and such, are having to be placed in a skilled nursing environment which is very clinical and not 'home like' simply because we do not have enough beds to offer because the Medicaid reimbursement rate is so low. This is also a waste of nurses during a workforce shortage of nurses. A skilled nursing facility requires 24/7 nurse staffing to patient ratio. The nurse is not needed for medical skills care for those placed in this environment not needing the medical care. It presents additional stress to those with Dementia that feel like they are in a hospital setting instead of a home like environment. It is a disgrace to think that a RFFG could care for a disabled person with Dementia with a \$30. Per day waiver.

Most importantly it presents a disservice to our Alzheimer's and Dementia loved ones who cannot afford care, and are left with little choice on living their lives to the fullest potential of enjoyment and quality.

We are requesting a higher rate of Medicaid reimbursement rates for RFFG's to provide more open beds, homes and opportunities for our Alzheimer's and Dementia Nevada residents and relief to their loved ones.

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