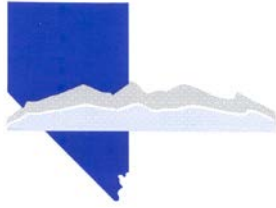


STATE OF NEVADA
NEVADA SILVER HAIR LEGISLATIVE FORUM



Legislative Building
401 S. Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747

John A. Yacenda, Ph.D., M.P.H., P.A.H.M., President
Reba June Burton, Vice President
Joann M. Bongiorno, Treasurer
Mary D. Roberts, Secretary



Contact:
Patrick B. Ashton, Forum Coordinator
Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau
(775) 684-6825

December 26, 2018

Senator Joyce Woodhouse
Chair, Senate Committee on Finance
246 Garfield Drive
Henderson, Nevada 89074-1027

Assemblywoman Maggie Carlton
Chair, Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
5540 East Cartwright Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada 89110-3802

Dear Chair Woodhouse and Chair Carlton:

The Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum was created to identify and act upon issues of importance to aging persons as set forth in *Nevada Revised Statutes* 427A.320. At its final meeting on October 9, 2018, the Forum voted unanimously to send you a letter expressing the Forum's concern about the cap on the number of seniors who can be served under the Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver for the Frail Elderly (HCBW-FE) in Nevada.

Waiver services include, but are not limited to, personal care assistance, case management, housekeeping, and respite care in the recipient's home. To qualify, seniors must be 65 years of age or older, at risk of institutionalization, and financially eligible. The waiver assists the most vulnerable seniors who already meet a nursing home-level of care and do not have the financial means to finance their own care.

The Forum received information from staff that the Medicaid HCBW-FE has nearly 540 qualified seniors waiting for a placement on the waiver as of August 2018. New data from the Aging and Disability Services Division, Department of Health and Human Services, indicates that this number has not significantly changed, and the waiting period is often longer than five months. Furthermore,

December 26, 2018

the HCBW-FE eligibility process may contribute to a long waiting period before an applicant is even considered eligible and placed on the waiver waiting list. This process can span over 120 days and includes three different state agencies.

The cap puts a significant burden on seniors and their families, most of whom face long waiting periods to qualify and receive placement on the HCBW-FE waiver. It also puts seniors at risk of worsening health conditions and unwanted placement in a nursing home. These issues will only magnify with Nevada's fast-growing senior population.

Eliminating the cap on the number of people served would reduce waiting periods for seniors to receive waiver benefits. Therefore, the Forum urges you to develop policy options that would eliminate any restrictions on the number of seniors served under the waiver and ensure the quick and uncomplicated application processing of qualifying individuals.

I appreciate your time and consideration of this recommendation. Please do not hesitate to contact me or the Forum Coordinator, Patrick B. Ashton (patrick.ashton@lcb.state.nv.us), if you have any questions.

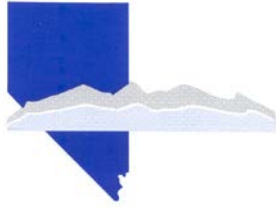
Sincerely,

John A. Yacenda, Ph.D., M.P.H., P.A.H.M.,
Forum President
Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum

PA/jk: G190166

cc: Governor Brian Sandoval
Governor-Elect Steve Sisolak
Richard Whitley, M.S., Director, Department of Health and Human Services

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Patrick B. Ashton, Forum Coordinator
Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau
(775) 684-6825

December 26, 2018

The Honorable Brian Sandoval
Governor of the State of Nevada
101 North Carson Street, Suite 1
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4786

Richard Whitley, M.S., Director
Department of Health and Human Services
4126 Technology Way, Suite 100
Carson City, Nevada 89706-2013

Dear Governor Sandoval and Director Whitley:

The Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum was created to identify and act upon issues of importance to aging persons as set forth in *Nevada Revised Statutes* 427A.320. At its final meeting on October 9, 2018, the Forum voted unanimously to send you a letter expressing the Forum's concern about the cap on the number of seniors who can be served under the Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver for the Frail Elderly (HCBW-FE) in Nevada.

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Governor Sandoval and Director Whitley

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December 26, 2018

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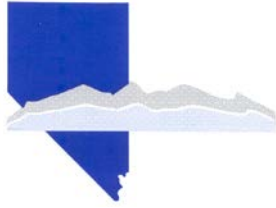
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John A. Yacenda, Ph.D., M.P.H., P.A.H.M.,
Forum President
Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum

PA/jk: G190166

cc: Governor-Elect Steve Sisolak
Joyce Woodhouse, Chair, Senate Committee on Finance
Maggie Carlton, Chair, Assembly Committee on Ways and Means

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Contact:
Patrick B. Ashton, Forum Coordinator
Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau
(775) 684-6825

January 7, 2019

The Honorable Steve Sisolak
Governor of the State of Nevada
101 North Carson Street, Suite 1
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4786

Dear Governor Sisolak:

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Governor Sisolak

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January 7, 2019

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John A. Yacenda, Ph.D., M.P.H., P.A.H.M.,
Forum President
Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum

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cc: Joyce Woodhouse, Chair, Senate Committee on Finance
Maggie Carlton, Chair, Assembly Committee on Ways and Means
Richard Whitley, M.S., Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Former Governor Brian Sandoval