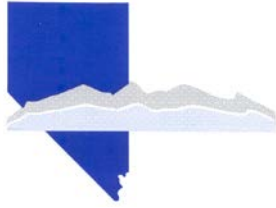


STATE OF NEVADA
NEVADA SILVER HAIR ED LEGISLATIVE FORUM



Legislative Building
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December 26, 2018

Senator Julia Ratti
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
P.O. Box 4228
Sparks, NV 89432-4228

Assemblyman Michael C. Sprinkle
Chair, Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services
P.O. Box 51202
Sparks, NV 89435-1202

Dear Chair Ratti and Chair Sprinkle:

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 support for the implementation of supported decision-making agreements as requested by the Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs in the 2017-2018 Interim (bill draft request 13–164).

Supported decision-making is recognized as an alternative to guardianship for some persons with intellectual or cognitive limitations; for example, seniors with dementia. According to Washoe County's Second Judicial District Court, supported decision-making is a series of relationships, practices, and agreements that allow supported adults to maintain their independence and have their decisions recognized by third parties. Unlike guardianship, supported decision-making empowers disabled individuals by providing them assistance with making their own decisions, rather than providing a substitute decision-maker for them. The principles of supported decision-making aim to achieve the highest degree of independence and enable individuals with disabilities to improve their quality of life by having their beliefs, desires, and norms heard and respected.

December 26, 2018

To reiterate, the Forum lends its full support to supported decision-making agreements. We urge you, as the chairs of the Senate and Assembly Committees on Health and Human Services, to support and adopt the bill as requested by the Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs.

I appreciate your time and consideration of this recommendation, and I hope the implementation of supported decision-making will benefit not only the senior citizens in our state, but also any other disabled individual in need of decision-making assistance. 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