

Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum
Grant Sawyer State Office Building, RM 4401
555 East Washington Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89101



April 7, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL (NVSilverForum@lcb.state.nv.us)

RE: Public Comment – COVID and Long Term Care Facilities

Dear Forum Members,

I am the president of the Nevada Health Care Association/Nevada Center for Assisted Living and our association represents assisted living and nursing facilities throughout Nevada.

All of us were impacted by COVID-19 but not everyone fought COVID-19 every day for over two long years. We are so grateful for our caregivers – they are health care heroes and should be treated as such. They did their best in a very tough regulatory environment. Several months into the pandemic, the federal government mandated the closing of all nursing homes to visitors and mandated that all residents be quarantined to their rooms. For almost a year, our residents were not allowed to:

- See family and friends in-person
- Participate in group activities
- Move freely around the nursing home
- Eat together in the dining room with friends and family

This isolation was extremely difficult on our residents, their loved ones and our caregivers.

Nevada's long term care communities have done a wonderful job caring for our most vulnerable during the pandemic and deserve positive acknowledgement and support. As I share some COVID-related data, we are aware that no nursing facility or assisted living facility is perfect. We acknowledge our humanity and always want to improve.

I have provided some national and state-specific data showing how long term care facilities have weathered the pandemic.

Nevada had one of the lowest COVID mortality rates for nursing facilities in the nation (excluding Alaska and Hawaii).

- Highest mortality rate – Rhode Island – 33.7%
- Lowest mortality rate – Arizona – 4.9%
- Nevada mortality rate – 5.6%

Quality of Nursing Facilities During the Pandemic (Long term care residents)

- Hospitalizations – decreased 15%
- UTIs – decreased 8%
- Catheter use – decreased 12%

Quality of Nursing Facilities During the Pandemic (Short term residents)

- Functional improvement – increased 8%

Infection Control During COVID

- There were 110K infection control surveys during COVID – 72% of those surveys were deficiency free

Nursing Facility Residents Recovered from COVID

- 730,000+

COVID-19s Vicious Nature

- Nearly 60% of nursing home resident deaths due to COVID occurred during the first 7 months of the pandemic, before vaccines were available

COVID-19 Uniquely Targets the Elder Population and those with underlying conditions

- COVID mortality for people 85+ is 340x higher than people between the ages 18-29

We appreciate the work of the Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum and look forward to working with each of you to build our long term care continuum.

Sincerely,

Brett Salmon

Brett Salmon, President/CEO
Nevada Health Care Association
Nevada Center for Assisted Living

(Source: American Health Care Association)