

STATE OF NEVADA
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October 1, 2024

Via E-mail

Steve Aichroth, Administrator
Housing Division
Department of Business and Industry
1830 East College Parkway, Suite 200
Carson City, Nevada 89706-7904

Mary L. Devine, Director
Department of Veterans Services
6630 South McCarran Boulevard, Building C, Suite 204
Reno, Nevada 89509-6186

Dear Mr. Aichroth and Ms. Devine:

During the 2023–2024 Interim, I served as the Chair of the Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs (*Nevada Revised Statutes* 218E.750). I am writing to advise you of an action taken by the Committee at its final meeting and work session on August 26, 2024. The Committee voted to send a letter to the Housing Division and the Department of Veterans Services to encourage housing units be dedicated specifically to veteran women for mental, physical, and emotional health purposes.

Women who are veterans face many challenges when returning to civilian life, including, but not limited to, raising children as a single parent and dealing with psychological traumas related to military service and military sexual trauma (MST). These challenges, among others, increase the risk of housing insecurity. During a presentation provided by the Women Veterans of Nevada, the importance of dedicated housing for veteran women, separate from men, was brought to the attention of the Committee Members. Housing that is collocated with male veterans can be detrimental to the mental and physical health of women veterans. As heard during testimony, the fastest growing population of veterans is women, and the lack of secure housing continues to be a barrier to achieving optimal health. With one in four veteran women facing MST, it is essential that dedicated housing is allotted to this population away from the risk of further abuse.

As you recall, [Senate Bill 363](#) (2023) authorized the Housing Division of the Department of Business and Industry to give priority to projects that provide a preference for women who are veterans, women who were previously incarcerated, survivors of domestic violence,

Mr. Aichroft and Ms. Devine

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elderly women who do not have stable or adequate living arrangements, and unmarried persons with primary physical custody of a child.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical issue. If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Destini Cooper, (Destini.Cooper@lcb.state.nv.us), Senior Policy Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB).

Sincerely,

Senator Pat Spearman, Chair
Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens,
Veterans and Adults With Special Needs

PS/tm:W242326

cc: Jennifer Ruedy, Research Director, Research Division, LCB
Destini Cooper, Senior Policy Analyst, Research Division, LCB
Eric Robbins, Senior Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division, LCB
David Nauss, Senior Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division, LCB

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October 1, 2024

Via E-Mail

Diane Thornton
Legislative Counsel Bureau
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747

Dear Ms. Thornton:

During the 2023–2024 Interim, I served as the Chair of the Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs (*Nevada Revised Statutes* 218E.750). I am writing to advise you of an action taken by the Committee at its final meeting and work session on August 26, 2024. The Committee voted to send a letter to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) to encourage signage for accessibility for persons who fall under the [Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990](#) (S.933, 101st Congress), acknowledge the efforts already being made by the LCB to improve accessibility, and encourage additional efforts and awareness on accessibility and following the State as a Model Employer Program guidelines.

[Universal access](#) is a term used to describe the commitment of the Nevada Legislature to accessibility and ensure that all people, regardless of ability, have access to the legislative process and can participate to their fullest extent. The Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs voted to extend a warm appreciation to the LCB for its efforts and commitment to maintain and improve accessibility in the Legislature.

During the interim, there were several requests for accommodations that are currently already being provided by the Legislature. This trending topic highlighted the need for increased signage in the Legislature to inform people of the resources available including, but not limited to, assistive listening devices, bill text or publications in large print, and communication access real-time translation (CART). Though the information is nicely displayed on the website, the Committee has concluded that it would be beneficial to have signage with similar language displayed in all legislative buildings and committee rooms.

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Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical issue and for your efforts to meet the needs of the many Nevadans that require accommodations to participate in the “people’s branch of government.” If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Destini Cooper (Destini.Cooper@lcb.state.nv.us), Senior Policy Analyst, Research Division, LCB.

Sincerely,

Senator Pat Spearman, Chair
Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens,
Veterans and Adults With Special Needs

PS/tm:W242329

cc: Jennifer Ruedy, Research Director, Research Division, LCB
Destini Cooper, Senior Policy Analyst, Research Division, LCB
Eric Robbins, Senior Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division, LCB
David Nauss, Senior Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division, LCB

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October 1, 2024

Via E-mail

Catherine Nielsen, Executive Director
Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities
406 East Second Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4758

Dear Ms. Nielsen:

During the 2023–2024 Interim, I served as the Chair of the Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans and Adults With Special Needs (*Nevada Revised Statutes* 218E.750). I am writing to advise you of an action taken by the Committee at its final meeting and work session on August 26, 2024. The Committee voted to send a letter to the Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities to encourage collaboration between the Legislative Branch and the Executive Branch to ensure accessibility for people with disabilities. Acknowledging that both branches are committed to increasing accessibility for all individuals regardless of ability, we hope to continue striving to achieve a universal design.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this essential collaboration. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Destini Cooper (Destini.Cooper@lcb.state.nv.us), Senior Policy Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB).

Sincerely,

Senator Pat Spearman, Chair
Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens,
Veterans and Adults With Special Needs

PS/tm:W242330

cc: Jennifer Ruedy, Research Director, Research Division, LCB
Destini Cooper, Senior Policy Analyst, Research Division, LCB
Eric Robbins, Senior Principal Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division, LCB
David Nauss, Senior Deputy Legislative Counsel, Legal Division, LCB