

STATE OF NEVADA
NEVADA SILVER HAIRED LEGISLATIVE FORUM

LEGISLATIVE BUILDING
401 S. CARSON STREET
CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701-4747

Tel. No.: (775) 684-6825
Fax No.: (775) 684-6400
Email: NVSilverForum@lcb.state.nv.us



FRAN ALMARAZ, *President*
MARILYN E. JORDAN, ED.D., *Vice President*
LUCILLE ADIN, *Northern Facilitator*
ROSIE TYLER, *Southern Facilitator*

November 7, 2024

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Joe Lombardo
Governor of Nevada
State Capitol Building
101 North Carson Street, Suite 1
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4786

Dear Governor Lombardo:

The [Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum](#) was created by the Legislature under *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) [427A.313 through 427A.400](#) to identify and act upon issues of importance to aging persons. During the 2023-2024 Legislative Interim, Forum members heard testimony from several State agencies that older adults in our State are particularly vulnerable to food insecurity, meaning they lack consistent access to enough nutritious food to help them live healthy, active lives.

Testimony indicated that roughly 1 in 11 adults who are 60 years of age or older faced food insecurity in 2022. The number of seniors struggling with hunger in Nevada has increased by 36 percent in the last 10 years, and researchers project Nevada will have at least 100,000 older adults struggling with food insecurity by 2025. The Forum members also learned that over 77,000 seniors in Nevada are dependent on Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to purchase food each month. Currently, over 14,000 of those seniors are receiving \$23 or less per month in SNAP benefits.

At its work session on [August 7, 2024](#), the Forum voted to send letters of support to various government entities to bolster efforts to reduce food insecurity among senior citizens in Nevada by:

Encouraging the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services to seek all federal authority to:

- Reduce the number of verification requirements for Nevadans aged 60 or older when certifying and recertifying eligibility to receive SNAP benefits;

The Honorable Joe Lombardo

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- Provide applicants aged 60 years or older with a simplified version of the SNAP application in large print;
- Allow telephone enrollment for SNAP benefits to applicants aged 60 or older; and
- Urging legislation to revise the definition of “food bank” in subsection 7(b) of NRS 561.515 to mean a food bank or other organization that is a member of the Feeding America network, or any other nonprofit organization in Nevada providing food services to individuals in need, as determined by the Director of the Nevada’s State Department of Agriculture (NDA). This revision aims to give the NDA greater flexibility in the number and types of organizations that may receive food distributions from the Home Feeds Nevada Agriculture Food Purchase Program.

Many elderly residents face substantial challenges in obtaining the nutritional support they need, and these proactive steps aim to expand and streamline access to food for our seniors who need it most.

I thank you for your time and consideration of this critical issue and for your dedication to serving all Nevadans. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at NVSilverForum@lcb.state.nv.us or Ashlee Kalina, Forum Coordinator, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau, at ashlee.kalina@lcb.state.nv.us.

Sincerely,

Fran Almaraz
Forum President
Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum

FA/jj:G242231

cc: Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor

Director, Department of Health and Human Services

Director, Nevada Department of Agriculture

Incoming Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Incoming Chair, Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services

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November 7, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Ryan Cherry
Chief of Staff
Office of the Governor
State Capitol Building
101 North Carson Street, Suite 1
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4786

Dear Mr. Cherry:

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Mr. Cherry
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cc: Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Director, Department of Health and Human Services
Director, Nevada Department of Agriculture
Incoming Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
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November 7, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Richard Whitley, M.S.
Director, Department of Health and Human Services
1000 North Division Street
Carson City, Nevada 89703

Dear Director Whitley:

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Incoming Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

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November 7, 2024

VIA EMAIL

J.J. Goicoechea, D.V.M.
Director, Nevada Department of Agriculture
405 South 21st Street
Sparks, Nevada 89431

Dear Director Goicoechea:

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Incoming Chair
Nevada State Assembly Committee on Health and Human Services
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4747

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