

OPENING REMARKS by Dr. John Yacenda, President, NSHLF (February 25, 2016 Meeting of the Nevada Silver Haired Legislative Forum held in the Las Vegas Office of the LCB.

“Last meeting I mentioned that as **Forum Members** we have an opportunity – *perhaps a responsibility* – to STAND IN THE GAP for Nevada seniors relative to legislation and ideas for legislation that will serve to protect, promote, enhance or otherwise benefit their lives. We’re truly in a special position as **Forum Members** appointed by the Legislative Commission, because our senior peers have both a “right” and “opportunity” to **impute to us the expectation that we’ll truly act on their behalf**, especially when they think no one else really cares.

NOT TO BE MISLEADING, STANDING IN THE GAP MEANS ...

- Seniors, both of financial means and with financial need, should be ENCOURAGED to tell us their complaints or issues, and have a sincere interest in moving these forward to OUR BODY to be looked at and examined through our public examination and advocacy.
 - As an update to how this very process works, the Kuhn family that testified before us last winter about the father’s dementia and subsequent death that triggered a host of medical, financial and housing issues, used their opportunity with the **Forum** to help restore sanity into what had become an out-of-control situation.
- We look at all the opportunities we’re offered as seniors to gain insight about health and social related issues that affect seniors. There are currently **Three Interim Legislative Study Task Forces and Policy Committees** meetings of which I’m participating:
 1. **Task Force on Alzheimer’s Disease** – I have testified before the Task Force about how Alzheimer’s Disease robs persons of their dignity, and the importance of building dignity into all service delivery programs.
 2. **Legislative Committee on Senior Citizens, Veterans, and Adults with Special Needs** -- I have testified before the Committee about the Forum’s interest in staying connected to the Committee’s inquiries and findings, and as well to inform the Committee of

Dreams Foundation, Inc.'s Veteran's Down Payment Assistance Program.

- **Why following this Interim Committee's Work is so important to the NSHLF:** In accordance with NRS 218E.750 (the Committee's establishing statute), "The Committee is charged with reviewing, studying, and commenting on issues relating to senior citizens, veterans, and adults with special needs, including, but not limited to the following: **(and I included only those that follow here in my comments, as they most directly touch on NSHLF discussion topics)**
 - The abuse, neglect, isolation, and exploitation of senior citizens and adults with special needs;
 - Public outreach and advocacy;
 - Programs for the provision of services to senior citizens, veterans, and adults with special needs and methods to enhance such programs to ensure that services are provided in the most appropriate setting;
 - Laws relating to the appointment of a guardian and the improvement of laws for the protection of senior citizens and adults with special needs who have been appointed a guardian, including the improvement of investigations relating to guardianships and systems for monitoring guardianships; and
- The improvement of facilities for long-term care in NV.

3. Commission to Study the Administration of Guardianships – Nevada Supreme Court

- Particularly attractive to seniors are the policy recommendations: (1) person-centered planning in the construction of guardianships; and (2) that Wards be seen **visibly at the initial establishment of guardianship.**
- I have requested through correspondence to Chief Justice Hardesty that there be a dedicated "Commission body" overseeing senior guardianships. **THIS CONCLUDES MY COMMENTS.**