



August 17, 2012

Legislative Committee on Health Care's Task Force to Develop a State Plan to Address Alzheimers Disease

Senator Valerie Wiener, Chairperson

Lisa Gardner, Committee Secretary

Legislative Counsel Bureau

555 East Washington Ave.

Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

RE: Licensing and Safety Issues Related to Group Homes for Persons with Dementia

Dear Senator Wiener,

On behalf of the Nevada Fire Chiefs Association (NFCA) and it's members, we are voicing our support of the Nevada State Fire Marshal's position regarding reducing the requirements for owners of Group Homes for people that are unable to save themselves from fire. As stated in the letter from Fire Marshal Peter Mulvihill, the majority of fire fatalities in the State of Nevada occur in a residential occupancies.

Not included in the statistics from the State Fire Marshal are the number of injuries caused by fire and smoke inhalation where the occupants survive. In every jurisdiction in the Nevada residential fires account for the majority of emergency fire responses. It is difficult enough for people that are able bodied and of sound mind to escape a home fire. It makes no sense to allow the owners of Group Homes where the residents are not able to escape without assistance of staff members to reduce the fire and life safety standards trhat have been in place for several years. Most residential fires that result in fatalities occur late at night or early in the morning. I would doubt that these Group Homes have adequate staff during these times that could assist the Group Home residents in the event of a fire.

The NFCA would ask that you support the State Fire Marshal and maintain the current standards for fire and life safety for these Group Homes in order to protect the residents who occupy these facilities.

Sincerely,

R. Stacey Giomi

NFCA President

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**EXHIBIT M – Alzheimer's
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Entire document provided.
Meeting Date 08-22-12**