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March 2015

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THERE WILL BE LIMITED FUNDS FOR SENIORS

Our goal is to create an awareness by the governor, the administration and members of the legislature, so that wise choices are made each year.

We look to the year 2030 as our target. Seniors should be living with dignity, in an affordable home, with adequate healthy food, have access to good medical services, and reasonable transportation access.

This is a time for introspection.

**WHAT IF
YOU WERE HUNGRY?
YOU WERE HOMELESS?
YOU HAD NO FAMILY SUPPORT?**

House bill 15-1033 is currently being considered by the legislature. It established a planning group as a guide for action by government, businesses and non-profits so they will be better prepared for the significant increase in the age of the state's population. During this time frame the number of residents over 80 will increase by approximately 100 per cent. When you consider that this is the age group most in need of services and assistance, the importance of this legislation becomes of paramount importance.

Reproduction of newsletter provided by Ed Shackelford, REALTOR®: Real Living CO Properties 720-353-3775 *National Award Winner, Premier Service*

The pleasure of remembering had been taken from me, because there was no longer anyone to remember with. It felt like losing your co-rememberer meant losing the memory itself, as if the things we'd done were less real and important than they had been hours before. ~ John Green, The Fault in Our Stars

As of March 14, 2015 the bill as drafted provides for a group of 23. The composition will be diverse, bring varied backgrounds to the committee. Because of the diversity of the areas that need attention it is anticipated that much of the detail knowledge and expertise will be provide by various sub-committees, whose members are not required to be members of the group of 23. It will be the responsibility of the group to assimilate the information from many sources and provide a framework for an allocation of resources to most effectively and efficiently achieve the goal.

These are areas that should be covered by the group. This is not necessarily comprehensive, and there will probably be other areas to cover.:

Housing

Living situation – of choice

In home care/assistance – paid by individual/family

In home care/assistance – family caregiver

In home care/assistance – provided by nonprofit/churches

In home care/assistance – provided by government

Living situation – of necessity

Assisted living

Nursing home – paid by individual/family

Nursing home – paid by nonprofit/government

Family caregiver support

Support services

Case management/social workers

Emotional/mental support services

Adult protective services

Medical services

Research — Alzheimer's – the big impact

Technology -- Rapid response to new developments

End of Life

Legal — Elder abuse

Workforce possibilities — Utilizing the resources of seniors

Quality control

Minority – special issues

LGBT

Poverty

Federal programs

Labor regulations for in-home care services

Overview — Building age friendly communities

A comprehensive plan will cover a wide range of skills, knowledge and experience. Topics such as housing and medical care require different participants to provide the knowledge and skills necessary to develop a portion of the overall plan.

But HB15-1033 provides a solution, the creation of subcommittees who may not be members of the planning group. This provides the ability to reach out and include various experts in the process. Take the example of housing — eventually new low income housing will require developers, contractors, architects, finance experts, housing authorities, and local planning boards. Support from elected city/counties is also required. It will be a task of the planning group to search out qualified individuals who are committed to providing solutions. This will be a significant time commitment by these participants.

So what constitutes a strong planning group that will develop recommendations and solutions for the most pressing budget issue for the next 15 years and beyond?

NON-PARTISAN:

In the next 15 years there will be Republican and Democrat controlled legislatures and governors from both parties. The issues are too significant to be subject to change based on political objectives. This requires solutions that stand the test of time and political differences.

The goal is to find cost effective solutions that bend the cost curve. Some solutions will be improved governmental policies and procedures Others will come from the business community and non-profits. Only reasonable compromise will get a balance of solutions that both parties can support.

Because of the known shortfall of funds: if we just continue doing what we are doing now, there will not be enough funding to provide minimum acceptable quality of life for seniors.

Because Republicans, Democrats, and Independents become seniors then we clearly all share a common goal.

EXTRAORDINARY SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE:

The goal is to find the very best participants. This sometimes require searching for the very best expertise and reaching out to secure talent. Without strong support by the governor it will be difficult to attract the skills and competency that will provide the very best solutions.

COMMITMENT:

The subjects are complex and the solutions difficult. This will require participants who are prepared to spend significant time to thoroughly explore all the areas requiring consideration.

The group leaders in particular will have to spend significant time.

The typical organization such as being proposed typically ends up with a very few persons doing the necessary detailed work that means the difference between real success and superficial success.

Former US senator Wayne Allard based his campaign on the statement “there are Show Horses and there are Work Horses”.

It is unfortunate that the group will end up with too many show horses and too few work horses. Only the most dedicated review of candidates can minimize this problem.

But it is a truism — the more politics is involved in the selection the more show horses and the fewer work horses — and consequently, superficial results.

STRONG LEADERSHIP:

The legislation (as drafted on March 15, 2015) stipulates that the committee will select its own leaders. The leadership will have to commit significant time to this project.

In 1968 (approximately) Otto Butterly, managing partner of Price Waterhouse and CO (an international CPA firm) spent an entire year, never coming into the office, working on a project similar to this planning group.

That is commitment.

Only the governor personally can approach two or three persons and get that type of commitment. But this matter is so important that it demands that type of commitment.

KNOWLEDGE:

The composition of the committee will contain important knowledge about many of the areas most affecting seniors. But certainly the co-chairs need above all else demonstrated skill in organization and the ability to take detailed information from many sources and weave them into a coherent plan dealing with the allocation of limited resources.

In the end this is about allocation of resources, and the complexity of making wise investment — anticipating that these investments will pay off many fold by significantly reducing cost elsewhere.

A BROAD PERSPECTIVE:

The broad scope affecting seniors and their needs makes it imperative that the participants of the group understand the interrelationship of all the matters that must be evaluated and prioritized.

The goal is to develop cost effective solutions so that every senior can enjoy at least a minimum acceptable quality of life. Because there will not be enough funding if we continue doing the same things, it behooves us to make smart, informed decisions for the greater good.

Where There's A Will, There's A Way

An old man lived alone in a village. He wanted to prepare his potato garden, but it was hard work. His only son, who would have helped him, was in prison.

The old man wrote a letter to his son and mentioned his situation:

Dear Son,

I am feeling pretty bad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my potato garden this year. I hate to miss doing the garden, because your mother always loved planting time. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. If you were here, all my troubles would be over. I know you would dig the plot for me, if you weren't in prison.

Love, Dad

Shortly, the old man received a telegram back from his son: *"For Heaven's sake, Dad, don't dig up the garden! That's where I buried the GUNS!"*

At 6:00 the next morning, a dozen agents and local police officers showed up and dug up the entire garden without finding any guns.

Confused, the old man wrote another note to his son telling him what happened, and asked him what to do next.

His son's reply was: "Go ahead and plant your potatoes, Dad. It's the best I could do for you from here."

No matter what your circumstances in the world, if you have the will to help someone, you can find a way.

Truth is much too complicated to allow anything but approximations.

—John von Neumann

We think in generalities, but we live in details. — Alfred North Whitehead

The thousand mysteries around us would not trouble but interest us, if only we had cheerful, healthy hearts.

—Friedrich Nietzsche

A bodily disease, which we look upon as whole and entire within itself, may, after all, be but a symptom of some ailment in the spiritual past.

—Nathaniel Hawthorne

At the end of the day, the goals are simple: safety and security.

—Jodi Rell

Your own safety is at stake when your neighbor's house is ablaze.

—Horace

Work is a part of life, not the point of it.

—Sean Adams

Work is either fun or drudgery. It depends on your attitude. I like fun.

—Colleen C. Barrett

Send in your reservation today!

Senior Day at The Capitol



When: Wednesday, April 1, 2015

Hosted by **Colorado Senior Lobby (CSL)**

This event is held in Downtown Denver at The Colorado State Capitol



Senior Day
at
The Capitol
Agenda

What to expect on Wednesday, April 1, 2015

8:00 – 9:00AM: Continental Breakfast (North 2nd floor mezzanine in The Capitol)

9:00AM – Noon: Main Program - As available, State Legislators will be joining us in the Old Supreme Court Chambers located on the 2nd floor in The Capitol to talk about senior issues and programs.

This is a free event with no reserved seating however priority is given to seniors for seating.

Noon – 2:00PM: Lunch Break & Afternoon Program – The lunch break and afternoon program is at First Baptist Church of Denver located 1 block East of The Capitol at 1373 Grant St. Enter the Church through the Grant St entrance. **Our lunches must be reserved and paid for by 3-20-15.**

Why attend? We can sum that up in 2 words – *Senior Power!*

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve Senior Funding • Keep Seniors Safe & Healthy • Meet your Legislators, Elected Officials and Senior Day at The Capitol Sponsors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about Legislation affecting seniors and improve your skills on advocating on behalf of seniors. • The Governor, Speaker of the House, Senate President and your Legislators are all invited (schedules pending). • A box lunch will be available for \$10.00 at the First Baptist Church of Denver located at 1373 Grant St, Denver, CO 80203 (1 block east of The Capitol on Grant St). You must pre-pay for the lunch. |
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QUESTIONS? Call or email Ed Shackelford, President of Colorado Senior Lobby at 303-832-4535 or email: president@ColoradoSeniorLobby.org

Visit our website for more information: www.ColoradoSeniorLobby.org

Lunch Reservations will be taken until March 20, 2015 or maximum capacity is reached.

Please RSVP that you are attending our event. Note that lunches must be pre-purchased with this form.

I (we) plan on attending Senior Day at The Capitol to be held on April 1, 2015!

My Name: _____ My Phone: _____

Other people attending with me: _____

My Address, City, State, Zip: _____

Optional Lunch for # of people: _____ **at \$10.00 each = \$** _____ **Check(s) Enclosed:** _____

Number of Assorted Meat(s): _____ Number of Vegetarian Lunch(s): _____ Number of Gluten Free Lunch(s): _____

Mail RSVP and/or checks for lunches payable to CSL: Colorado Senior Lobby, PO Box 102662, Denver, CO 80250

- **You can also register and pay via credit card online at: www.ColoradoSeniorLobby.org**
- **Limited seating is available in the Old Supreme Court Chambers in The Capitol. Seating is first come, first served basis with priority seating given to seniors.**
- **Please advise us by 3-20-15 of any special services or accessibility needs.**
- **RSVP is requested but not required; however, with an RSVP we can better plan for this event.**

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*The ultimate folly is to think that
something crucial to your welfare is being taken
care of for you.*
—Robert Brault, American operatic tenor

“Healthy citizens are the
greatest asset any
country can have.”
— Winston Churchill

Go Green:

Recycle This Newsletter!

After you've enjoyed our newsletter,
please recycle it by passing it along
to a family member, friend, neighbor
or coworker.

Colorado Senior Lobby — Nonprofit, non-partisan, volunteer organization

MEMBERSHIP: Single \$30 Family \$40 Organization \$75 \$ _____

Organizations: Attach three names and contact information

Additional contribution to support our vision for seniors' quality of life \$ _____

Total (This payment is not tax deductible) \$ _____

Name/Business/Organization: _____

Address: Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: Home _____ Business _____

Cell: _____ Email Address: _____

Circle one: **BILL ME** or **CHECK ENCLOSED** — payable Colorado Senior Lobby

P. O. Box 102662, Denver, CO 80250-2662 DATE: _____

Newsletter by **EMAIL** or **SNAIL MAIL**

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