



Task Force on Aging Comments
By Kris Sundberg, Executive Director
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Madame Chairs and members of the Legislative Task Force on Aging, I am Kris Sundberg, Executive Director of Elder Voice Advocates. EVA is an advocacy organization that champions solutions that address the needs of seniors and vulnerable adults. We supported this Task Force from its beginning and look forward to the completion of this critically important work.

Our work has offered EVA a unique lens in the many challenges and opportunities we have before us as our population ages. We are struggling with rising costs for our housing, food, and other living expenses. Our transportation system is inadequate, leaving many in isolation. Our health care system is often unaffordable and in some rural areas it is not available. This list goes on.

Here is what we would like you to understand about us seniors:

- We want to be seen and included in this planning process, which I understand is the intent of this Task Force.
- We are powerful contributors to our economy and vibrant participants in our society for many years after we turn 65.
- We want to live in communities of our choice.
- We seniors want to be able to afford our homes, be safe in our communities, have a transportation system that understands our

needs and above all, get the quality care we have a right to expect.

- Eventually, some of us will need help from care providers in our homes and others in a long-term care setting. But they must be more than just a roof over our heads but instead provide compassionate, quality care.

The work of this Task Force is one of the highest priorities of Elder Voice Advocates. We have been actively engaging with a wide range of senior organizations to make them aware and supportive of the legislation that established this work. Seniors we have talked with are enthusiastically supportive of this work and have high expectations for a more positive outlook in the coming years. We will continue to communicate broadly to senior groups throughout the state to grow awareness and encourage their participation by attending Task Force meetings in person or virtually.

Elder Voice Advocates looks forward to being an active partner with all of you. I believe that together we can lead the nation with a well thought out plan to tackle our infrastructure and quality care challenges with innovative, multifaceted solutions. Thank you.