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**Nevada Governor's Consumer Health Advocate  
Earns National Recognition**

**Carson City, NV**— The National Minority Quality Forum (NMQF) recently announced that Janise Wiggins, Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval's Consumer Health Advocate, has been selected as one of its 2017 40 Under 40 Leaders in Minority Health awardees. "I was so enthused when I was notified that I had been selected as one of the awardees," said Wiggins. "It will be such an honor to represent our great State of Nevada as I walk up on the stage to receive the award. Then, it will time to get back to work, improving the lives of our state's citizens."

The National Minority Quality Forum (NMQF) 40 Under 40 Leaders Award annually recognizes the outstanding work and accomplishments of professionals in the healthcare field who strive to continue positively impacting minority communities. A wide range of health professionals have been selected for this year's award including; physicians, nurses, policy experts, researchers, and social workers. The 40 Leaders selected for the award will be honored at the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust's Award Gala Dinner later this month in Washington, DC.

In Nevada, the Minority Health and Equity Coalition, in partnership with the Office of Minority Health works to improve the quality of health care services for members of minority groups; to increase access to health care services; to seek ways to provide education; and to address, treat and prevent disease and conditions that are prevalent among minority populations. "I'm so delighted to congratulate Ms. Wiggins on her well-deserved national recognition of her significant contributions to meet the diverse needs of our minority communities," said Assemblyman Tyrone Thompson. "Her tireless efforts were a vital part of influencing policies and practices of key decision makers at local and national levels. I applaud her work ethic and dedication."

Wiggins was appointed to the position of Governor's Consumer Health Advocate in July 2013. In this role, Wiggins manages the Office for Consumer Health Assistance, which includes oversight of the Office of Minority Health; the Bureau for Hospital Patients; Affordable Care Act education programs; and Ombudsmen who help consumers understand the complex health care system.

For more information on the NMQF, please visit <http://nmqf.net/40u40/>

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