MOTIVATIONAL SPEECH

FOR

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Hello everyone! I want to thank all of you for being here and for allowing me a few minutes to share some thoughts. But first, I have a question for each one of you…. don’t worry- there is no wrong answer. My question is this: What do **YOU** see when you look into the mirror? Many of us see our assets and flaws as only we, who are so familiar with our image, can see. We may think, “Could that possibly be **ME**? I still feel like a kid inside.” Some take the lead of Mark Twain and say that age is a question of mind over matter…. if you don’t mind it doesn’t matter, but that is true to only a certain extent…. And as the great opera singer Beverly Sills has reminded us, “In youth we run into difficulties. In old age **difficulties run into us**.”

We are fortunate to live in an era in which we have the capability to be more connected than ever before. Movements are launched and voices are heard, but more and more there are segments of the population that are becoming increasingly marginalized. That is why it is such a priority that we form and strengthen the Seniors Action Network. This is a movement designed to give an urgently needed voice to a critical segment of our population… the Senior Citizens of our nation. Our aging populace is our greatest national treasure and they not only deserve… they require an advocacy that supports their voices and the causes that, if we are lucky enough to attain equivalent seniority, will be for us as well. We must create a network that brings to light issues like the need for adequate and affordable medical care, understandable and accessible health insurance and a myriad of senior benefits. We must also promote the urgent need for dignified and comfortable housing to support as much self-sufficiency as possible, among other issues. It is no longer okay to be complacent. Every day we hear of too many startlingly real examples of what can go terribly wrong when apathy or inaction prevails. It is up to each one of us to share the voice and the cause of the people responsible for **YOUR** existence and heritage.

Let’s put it this way…. In 2014 it was estimated that the average age of the membership of the US Congress was **57 years old**. At the same time the US Senate composite was **62 years old**, and the Supreme Court of the US boasts an **aggregate age of 75**. There is no escaping the inevitable and we all must be involved and prepared to find the best routes to navigate the all-too-real issues dogging our increasingly maturing population. There are conditions directly related to aging in the US that must be addressed and the Senior Action Network needs each one of you to share in spreading the voice of our people. We grew up hearing that, “The mind is a terrible thing to waste” and so is the well-being of our mentors, our parents, and our friends and neighbors. It is not okay to allow this part of our community to “fall through the cracks.” We urgently need your support to spread the word of our mission to lawmakers on behalf of **ALL** of this country’s senior citizens. Thank you all.