

Reflection #38  
By Eugene Dufour

**The system is broken and in need of change... but you are not broken!**

It is with a heavy heart but also with great enthusiasm that I welcome the report from our military leaders concerning Senior Care. I also thank our political leaders for their raw and necessary response to the report.

There is one clear distinction that needs to be made... the system is broken but our Senior Care Workers are not!!!

There are many excellent individual and organizations that provide expert, compassionate care to our seniors. But the broken system needs a power shift and a foundation that puts compassionate care over reducing cost and increasing profits.

Now is the time for all political parties, unions, Senior Care organizations and front-line workers to work together and be active, in any way possible, in the review of our care of our seniors. This review needs to be comprehensive and look at both care of our seniors in facilities and in their homes. Excellent and sufficient care at home reduces the demand of facilities. That reduction of service can allow for a better funded facility.

Any review needs to hear the voices of our front-line workers.

When our seniors need care, due to the culture of independence and respect that our seniors were raised in, they often present a beautiful but troubled smile to hide an injured soul and we never notice how broken they are. We need to go deeper than the fractured smile and ask the difficult questions. Then we must have the desire and ability to heal the injured soul.

My experience of my co workers in seniors care is that they lead from the wisdom of their own personal brokenness and provide excellent and compassionate care. They are anything but broken!