[ms-0398.024.003.026]

NASW
California Chapter, Region E
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San Diego, CA 92103

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APR 23 1991
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April 18, 1991

Supervisor Leon Williams
County Administrative Center
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Supervisor Williams,

Our organization feels impelled to share concerns regarding the threatened termination of San Diego's County Medical Services (C.M.S.). We ask that every effort be made to continue C.M.S. without budget cuts to other important services provided by the County of San Diego. - County Mental Health and the Dept. of Social Services.

The National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter, Region E is composed of over 1,150 members throughout San Diego and Imperial Counties. Members function as administrators, educators, psychotherapists, and social workers in various health and social service settings. We feel an ethical obligation to advocate for the rights of our clients.

Currently 25,000-33,000 medically uninsured residents are being treated annually by C.M.S., with an annual budget of $41 million dollars. The prospect of meeting the medical needs of these residents without C.M.S. is devastating. There will be avoidable deaths and crippling illnesses. The existing medical services will be overtaxed, causing delays in urgent care service. Trauma care centers will be pushed into fiscal crisis.

Medical care is a basic human right, not a priviledge. Please help to maintain C.M.S. in San Diego County.

Respectfully,

Beth Strong

Beth Strong, Regional Director
National Association of Social Workers