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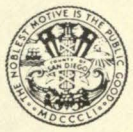

County of San Diego

(619) 236-2705

REGIONAL TASK FORCE ON AIDS

1700 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2417

February 22, 1991

RECEIVED
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Ans'd. JG

Leon L. Williams
Supervisor, Fourth District
County of San Diego
Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Supervisor Williams:

Because there are significant numbers of HIV-infected individuals receiving medical care through the County Medical Services Program who otherwise would have no medical services, the members of the San Diego County Regional Task Force on AIDS/HIV voted at the meeting of February 13, 1991, to strongly urge the Board of Supervisors to seek continued funding for the County Medical Services Program.

More than 60% of AIDS cases are indigent persons. For this reason alone, the cessation of services by the County Medical Services Program would portend greater suffering for AIDS patients and their families, and devastate the system of health care service currently providing medical assistance to the HIV-infected in San Diego County.

The Board of Supervisors has previously endorsed and recommended early intervention for those at the early stage of HIV infection. Such intervention enhances the quality of life and delays rapid advancement of the disease with its attending disability and escalating financial costs to the person and the public.

However, for many of our working poor who have no private insurance and are not eligible for other public programs, early intervention will become difficult if not impossible with the absence of CMS, or a comparable program. The absence of CMS jeopardizes the quality and duration of life for HIV infected persons. Moreover, the demise of CMS will increase public costs by hastening end stage HIV disease with its greatly increased medical costs.

To abandon CMS is to abandon many of our citizens in their time of critical need.

Sincerely,

Penn Lerblance

PENN LERBLANCE
Chair

PL:KWG:mqn