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SHARP
HEALTHCARE

Office of the President & Chief Executive Officer

February 21, 1991

The Honorable John MacDonald, 5th District
San Diego County Board of Supervisors
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego, California 92101

Re: County Medical Services Program

Dear Chairman MacDonald:

On behalf of Sharp HealthCare I urge you to continue the CMS program and provide an assured source of funding for this essential medical care safety net.

San Diego's hospitals and community clinics do not have the resources to absorb the full cost of the 25,000 patients now treated under the CMS program. Last year, the three Sharp hospitals were not reimbursed for over 75% of the cost of CMS patient care ($9 million). To defund CMS would add another $3 million to that burden.

The results of cancelling this program are not acceptable and threaten the very existence of San Diego's 16 community clinics, emergency services throughout the County and even our trauma network which is one of the finest in the nation.

The County must recognize and meet its legal responsibility to the County's working poor and indigent.

Sincerely,

Peter K. Ellsworth
President & Chief Executive Officer

PKE/mc

CC: Supervisor Brian Bilbray, 1st District

Supervisor George Bailey, 2nd District

Supervisor Susan Golding, 3rd District

Supervisor Leon Williams, 4th District

J. William Cox, M.D., Ph.D., Director
Department of Health Services