[ms-0398.024.003.015]
CMS/TERMINATION

LAW OFFICES OF
CALIFORNIA RURAL LEGAL ASSISTANCE

216 SOUTH TREMONT STREET
OCEANSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92049
TELEPHONE (619) 966-0511

RECEIVED
FEB 26 1991
Ans'd.....

February 25, 1991

Supervisor Leon Williams
San Diego County Board
of Supervisors
County Administration Center
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego, California 92191

Re: Proposed Elimination of County Medical Services Program
(February 26, 1991 Board of Supervisors Meeting)

Dear Supervisor Williams:

As a recent report by the Regional Task Force on the Homeless bears out, for North County migrants -- whose work and living conditions result in appallingly high rates of disease and injury -- medical services are already far too sporadic. Unless the Board comes to the rescue of its indigent health care program, the largely documented farmworkers and day-laborers involved will have to sacrifice their health even more, and possibly jeopardize that of others. After all, the control of contagious diseases, treatment of serious illness and prevention of possible future sickness should concern the overall community, since there is no way to segregate those who are ill or potentially so from those who are healthy.

More than anywhere else in the state and perhaps the country, then, an extensive network of public health services is needed here. We are writing to urge that instead of the truly cruel cuts proposed, the Board exercise new fund-raising powers granted it by the Legislature so as to ensure that San Diego County's provider of last resort obligations are even minimally met.

Sincerely,

CLAUDIA E. SMITH
Regional Counsel