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### OPEN LETTER TO YUBA/SUTTER AREA 4 WORK GROUP

IT HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT MY POSITION ON THE HOME MODIFICATION PROGRAM -VS- RESPITE CARE HAS CAUSED SOME CONSTERNATION AMONG WORK GROUP MEMBERS. THAT SAID, THERE ARE A COUPLE OF POINTS THAT I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS REGARDING THIS MATTER.

1. IT WAS MENTIONED THAT I AM TOO CLOSE TO FREED TO BE FAIR MINDED. I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT PROMPTED THIS ASSUMPTION. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT MY BELIEF IN THE WORK THAT FREED DOES AS A CENTER FOR INDEPENDANT LIVING TAINTS MY VISION ON THE NEED FOR THE HOME MODIFICATION PROGRAM.

2. THE WORK GROUP, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF MY SELF VOTED TO CEASE FUNDING THE HOME MODIFICATION FOR YUBA/SUTTER COUNTIES. THIS VOTE WAS PRESENTED TO THE JOINT GOVERNING BOARD AND THE ADVISORY COUNSEL IN NOVEMBER. THE COMBINED GROUP VOTED TO SUPPORT THE WORK GROUP AND THEIR DECISION TO NOT FUND THE YUBA/SUTTER HOME MODIFICATION PROGRAM.

3. AT THE DECEMBER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING I PRESENTED A LAST DITCH PLEA TO NOT DEFUND THE HOME MODIFICATION PROGRAM FOR SEVERAL REASONS. FIRST AND FOREMOST IS THAT THE PROGRAM KEEPS SENIORS IN THEIR HOMES FOR A MUCH LONGER PERIOD OF TIME BY MAKING THE HOMES MORE ACCESSABLE. IT ALSO ALLOWS AN EVALUATION BY A TRAINED STAFF PERSON TO SEE IF THERE ARE OTHER PROBLEMS IN THE HOME AND IF THE RESIDENTS MAY NEED OTHER SERVICES. NO OTHER "VOLUNTEER" HOME REPAIR GROUP IS CAPABLE OF DOING THAT EVALUATION. THE HOME MODIFICATION PROGRAM RUN BY FREED HAS NO MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS, THE ONLY REQUIREMENT IS THAT PARTICIPATANTS BE SENIORS AND HAVE THE NEED FOR A MINOR HOME MODIFICATION.

THE OTHER MAIN CONCERN IS INSURANCE FOR THE PERSON DOING THE REPAIRS. FREED RUNS BACKGROUND CHECKS ON ALL VOLUNTEERS DOING THE WORK AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS.

4. THERE WAS CONTINUED DISCUSSION BOTH FOR AND AGAINST THE HOME MODIFICATION PROGRAM. SUPERVISOR YASQUEZ THEN MADE THE MOTION TO CONTINUE FUNDING THE HOME MODIFICATION PROGRAM. A VOTE WAS TAKEN AND THE GOVERNING BOARD VOTED TO CONTINUE FUNDING FREED, WITH ONLY ONE DISSENTING VOTE.

5. FINALLY. EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS WITH THE BOARD. THE BOARD MADE ITS DECISION AND NOW IT IS TIME TO MOVE FORWARD.

RESPECTFULLY,

CHRIS PARENT