



California Association for the Retarded

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November 3, 2006

The Honorable Noreen Evans, Chair
Assembly Committee on Human Services
State Capitol, Room 6025
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Assemblywoman Evans:

On behalf of the California Association for the Retarded (CAR) I wish to acknowledge your efforts to understand the reality of the lives led by individuals with mental retardation and the struggles they and their families experience in dealing with large organizations willing to substitute their judgments about what services and supports an individual needs for the judgments and choices of those persons themselves. Your ability and willingness to hold hearings and attend meetings in order to identify systemic challenges to providing for individually assessed needs holds great potential for restoring some balance to a system that serves so many vulnerable Californians.

CAR particularly seeks to preserve a full range of service options for its constituents, so that the Lanterman Act's promise of choice remains viable. CAR embraces new service models that meet the changing needs of persons with retardation. We believe you share the view that one size does not fit all and that traditional service models really do meet needs and must continue to receive support as long as service recipients choose them.

In the coming legislative session, as you set about addressing such matters as adherence to the basic tenets of the Lanterman Act, know that CAR appreciates your efforts and looks forward to working with you to accomplish our mutual goals.

Sincerely,

Marion Lieberman
President