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March 21, 2003

My name is <sup>Stephen</sup> ~~James~~ Koetsier. I am the Administrator of Carson Valley Residential Care Center in Gardnerville, Nevada.

I appreciate the opportunity to express my support for the expansion of Group Care Waiver services. I believe it is urgently necessary to increase rates and create of levels of care as proposed.

My facility opened in mid-1997 with 57 beds. We limit the number of Group Care Waiver residents we accept at any given time to ten. The reward we receive for participating in this program is providing a desirable service to the needy. However, we lose money at the current rate and must deny access to most applicants. Those turned away are usually confined to costly institutionalization elsewhere, at taxpayer expense.

The cost of caring for residents in my facility increased 23% over the past three years; nearly 8% per year. In the past nine months my insurance increased 486%; State of Nevada license fees went up dramatically this year and, fuel and utilities continue to increase exponentially.

~~For the~~ The added cost of complying with the Nevada State Fire Marshal's office to construct a 12-unit addition to my facility is expected to be between \$70,000 and \$155,000.

All the while, we receive \$9.09 per day. A rate established ten years ago.

As tax-payer and a healthcare provider, I urge you to allocate the funds necessary to make available the affordable home-like Assisted Living alternative to Nevada's elderly.

Respectfully,

Stephen J. Koetsier, RFA

