



Dear Toby Douglas,

Raul Carranza is a young, smart and active 22-year old with muscular dystrophy, a progressive disease that prevents his muscles from making any energy. As the years have gone by he has lost the ability to walk, move his arms, eat and breathe. Because of this he requires around the clock nursing care. However, this has not stopped him from striving for an independent life. In 2010, he moved away to UCLA by himself and lived away from his family for a whole semester. Unfortunately, he had to come back home to San Diego at the end of December of that year because he was fighting the state of California. Despite convincing a judge that he does need Acute 24 hour care, his nursing hours were still cut. These “fair hearings” are not like the traditional court system. The judge has to have their decision approved by the head of the Department of Healthcare Services (DHCS), which oversees the program. The judges decision was not approved and the former director left Raul at the Sub Acute level of care despite a mountain of evidence against it. You have a chance to change this and make things right.

After doing a little research and talking to some people, Raul saw that he was not an isolated case and that cuts were going on everywhere around him. He wasn't denied care because he doesn't need it, but simply because the state of California wanted to save money. To that end, Governor Jerry Brown has been lobbying hard to privatize all of California's Medi-Cal (California's version of Medicaid) program. He wants to turn it over to private insurance companies under the guise of saving money. This isn't going on just in California, but everywhere in the country.

The privatization of Medi-Cal will force a large majority of disabled people into nursing homes and many others further into poverty, many of whom do not have the family and community support they need to keep fighting. The cutting of essential healthcare programs is not acceptable.

As a defender of healthy lives for our children and our communities, I demand that you place Raul Carranza in the acute level of care.

Sincerely,

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