



STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
FARIBAULT STATE HOSPITAL
FARIBAULT, MINNESOTA 55021
(507) 334-6411

June 21, 1978

Earl Renneke
Route #2
LeSeuer, Minnesota - 56038

Dear Senator Renneke:

I want to thank you for your telephone call of 6/20/78, The concern of one of our parents that was expressed to you regarding the loss of 95 CETA positions and the known loss of the other 15 which will take place over the next several months is shared equally by the staff and administration of the Faribault State Hospital. I think it's fair to say that several weeks ago when the attorneys for the plaintiffs in the Welsch vs. Dirkswager case toured the Faribault State Hospital, that the Faribault State Hospital had basically sufficient staff and that our staff were doing a good job in working with the residents of the Faribault State Hospital. Subsequently, we have lost originally 80 CETA positions followed by another 10 which will be dropped on 6/23/78, The remaining 20 have been put in a freeze situation and as they leave employment at the Faribault State Hospital we cannot fill the positions. Already 5 of them are vacant. This leaves us with a state complement effective the first of July of 892 positions.

You asked me what we've done here at the Faribault State Hospital and what might be done by yourself as a concerned legislator. First of all, we discussed the fact that we have apprised the Department of Public Welfare on the problems that we are running into because of the loss of the positions. Secondly, I indicated that I had made phone calls to the CETA office in Chicago and in Minneapolis, and St. Paul to find out what could be done. I was advised that there were no funds available at this time and there were none projected until possibly the beginning of the Federal fiscal year which would be the first of October, 1978. In addition to suggestions made possibly your contacting the Governor and talking about a special session or trying to put pressure on the Feds, you suggested that maybe the Legislative Advisory Committee could meet. It would be my recommendation you make that suggestion to the Commissioner and the Governor.

In addition to the above, you asked me how many positions I would need to at least have a comfortable position during this interim time between now and the time the Legislature would meet. Off hand, and without giving it a complete study, I would say the addition of approximately 50 to 60 positions brings enough to a complement of 950 that would be somewhat appropriate.

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I indicated to you that of the 110 CETA positions, we were probably getting about 65% to 75% productivity from that group because of the training nature of the particular positions, and the fact that we were dealing with people who were trying to get back into the job market and learn skills so that they could have marketable employment skills. . In terms of meeting the specifics of the Welsch vs. Dirkswager court case, we indicated in February to the Legislature that the Faribault State Hospital would need about 1,060 positions to meet every intent of that court order, I think that I could successfully staff and meet the court order with approximately 1,000 staff positions, i.e., there are some parts of the court order that I think, although they apply to Cambridge, would not necessarily have to apply to Faribault because of work we've done here that possibly was not done at the other facility,

In general, I want to thank you for your call and wish you well. I'm sending a copy of this letter to Commissioner Dirkswager so he knows of the contact that I have had with you regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Charles V. Turnbull
Chief Executive Officer

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