

BASSFORD, HECKT, LOCKHART, TRUESDELL & BRIGGS, P. A.

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ALSO ADMITTED IN WISCONSIN
** ALSO ADMITTED IN NEW MEXICO

June 27, 1988

Sen. David Durenberger
Ms. Helen Darling
154 Russell Building
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Dave and Helen:

Enclosed please find a xerox copy of letters which the Minnesota Congress of Advocates for the Retarded, Inc. have received in support of the preservation, maintenance and improvement of the regional treatment centers in Minnesota. As you know, these were formerly called state institutions.

I assure you that these people have been and are now opposed to Senator Chaffee's Senate Bill 1673 for the reason they realize that this bill is designed to remove all of their loved ones from the excellent care which they are now receiving at the regional treatment centers.

It is unfortunate in this country that when we attempt to correct a problem we always tend to go overboard with legislation to create even more problems.

You may recall that there were four black women in Alabama who were forcibly sterilized in order to be discharged from the state institution in Alabama. These women were not even retarded. Then a lot of states passed laws making it almost impossible for a retarded woman who wanted to be sterilized to receive this procedure although the so called "normal" woman or man could secure same without having to go to court.

I sincerely hope that you, Dave, and others on the Finance Committee will stay firm and not sign on as a co-sponsor of the above bill. I believe that is the only way that there can be enough pressure placed upon the other side of the issue in order for the proponents of S. 1673 to get serious about affecting a realistic compromise in order that the good parts of Senate 1673 can be implemented without at the same time destroying the

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excellent larger community facilities and the excellent larger state institutions. I certainly agree that any of the institutions that are in fact bad whether they be community, small, large or what have you should be brought up to standard. But the destruction of the good with the bad doesn't make sense.

Very truly yours,

Melvin D. Heckt

for

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& BRIGGS, P. A.