Board of Supervisors
700 H Street, Suite 2450
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Supervisors,

I received a letter stating that County Executive Terry Shutten is recommending the total elimination of health and dental insurance subsidies for all retirees who retired after June 29, 2003. This item is scheduled on you Board of Supervisors agenda on January 30, 2007 at 2:15 p.m. The past practice of a health and dental subsidy for the last 27 years has provided a much-needed benefit for retirees and we desperately rely on it. We have placed our trust in you throughout our careers and all we are asking you to do is to support your current retirees, don't divide us.

The health insurance subsidy was historically linked to the cost fo a health insurance premium for the individual. Then in 2003, it was capped at the prior 2002 level even though health premiums were soaring. We tried to absorb that. But since then, the subsidy has been held at that level while our premiums have gone up an unbelievable 78% above the subsidy. Many retirees are struggling financially as a result of capping this rate. Now the recommendation is to take away the subsidy totally for those who retired after June 29, 2003. Why??? Are these less valued employees? These long term public servants worked throughout their career providing the best service possible for our community. Now the County Executive is recommending a very abrupt punitive action against those who retired under a retirement plan that was approved by your Board a few years ago. This seems so arbitrary, and why is it being applied retroactively to those who have already made their retirement decision?

I wish to express my personal views about this discriminatory recommendation prior to your decision on this extremely important matter.

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Thank you for taking your valuable time to listen. We desperately need you now more than ever. **Please support your retirees, don't divide us!**

Sincerely,