

April 4, 2006

FAX 303-866-2003

Bill Owens, Governor
136 State Capital
Denver, Colorado 80203-1792

Dear Governor Owens,

Subject: **Citizens' Request for 2006 Legislative Support To
Colorado Mental Health Institute at Fort Logan (CMHFL)**

This letter is to request your legislative and financial support for Fort Logan in this legislative session so the hospital can continue to provide the excellent mental health services historically available at the Mental Health Institute at Fort Logan.

The Council of Homeowners Organization For Planned Environment (COHOPE) represents more than 8,000 homes in SW Jefferson County. This month the *Citizens for Fort Logan* gave a report on the need for more inpatients psychiatric beds as part of the Colorado mental health system. (See attmt.1)

- Those beds are necessary for Colorado citizens whose *medical needs* cannot be met elsewhere.
- Under funding, downsizing and de stabilization that has occurred at **CMHLFL** adversely affects the ability to effectively meet the needs of a citizen with mental illness. Location and dual diagnosis have to be considered.
- *Colorado prisons are the largest treatment facility for persons with serious mental illness..* This is really an outrage to not only the mentally ill but to all of Colorado's citizens.
- *Mental health care* needs to be provided in settings best suited to meet patient medical needs rather than by government and funding restrictions. Let's do it now before the courts regulate it.

- **2006 National Alliance for Mentally Ill(NAMI)** “Grading the States” ranked Colorado thirty-third (33) (\$66.30) Per Capita Mental Health Spending, Per Capita Income ranked (9) (\$32,550) with Total Mental Health Spending ranked twenty-third(23) (\$300M) **with a suicide rank of seven.** Let’s correct this apparent injustice now. (See Attmt.2)

As a result, the Council voted unanimously to send our representatives this request for support; We, and other citizens desperately want these needs met at Fort Logan.

We thank you in advance of your support in this serious matter. May we hear what you plan to do to help support Fort Logan in this 2006 session. Please respond to: florene2003@ yahoo.com or mail a response.

Thank you,

Florene F. Rotherham
Vice President, COHOPE
10677 W. Parkhill Place
Littleton, Colorado 80127-5547
303-972-7234

Attmts: 1) Citizens For Fort Logan
2) NAMI, Grading the States, 2006