To:

Richard Whitley

Director of Health and Human Services, Nevada

400 West King Street, Suite 300

Carson City, Nevada 89703

Dear Mr. Whitley,

Thank you for responding to our letter of concern regarding ADSD’s handling of federal funding for Public Health Workforce that was supposed to come through Title VII, Part B. We appreciate the opportunity to discuss our concerns with Administrator Schmidt. We do understand the loss of funding was not intentional, and that leadership discussed corrective action for future funding opportunities; although, it is still unclear what assurances are in place to prevent it from happening again. The idea that it was discussed is encouraging, at least.

During our discussion with Ms. Schmidt, several other concerns of ours were expressed, including the concern about disability services diminishing with the merging of Disability Services Unit into the Planning, Advocacy and Community Services Unit. When Ms. Schmidt asked what could be done to ensure improved communication moving forward, the response was a resounding “nothing about us without us” and to please ensure that people with disabilities are consulted when planning new services or changing existing services for people with disabilities. As you may be aware, this is specifically defined in NRS 427.040 and further clarifies the Agency shall report on the progress of their strategic plan annually. The SILC is the only Council that is made up of a majority of people with disabilities, and, therefore, is technically the only qualified Council to provide feedback and receive these reports in order for us to create an effective State Plan for Independent Living, as mandated federally.

Although this concern was not specifically addressed in your response to our initial letter, we are optimistic that ADSD will begin to follow the above mentioned NRS based on the additional concerns we expressed to Administrator Schmidt. We hope that you will continue to monitor this, as well, and deeply appreciate the time you took to address our concerns.

Respectfully,

The Nevada Statewide Independent Living Council

\**This letter was approved unanimously by the voting members of the Council on 00/00/0000 at 0:00a/pm PST*