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To: The Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee on LD 2217

What motivates a state or county to defund a VA Home or Center? Is it lack of resolve, abandonment of those now in their greatest need, those that signed to serve and give all if need be. I have lived long enough to learn and experience that when you are no longer of use, the importance of you fades.

But the reality of it all, boils down to the dollar – we can fund studies, off the wall programs, short sighted projects that are short lived. But this is the paper and pencil side of it.

How about the human side of it? The real-life side of it, the veteran, the loved ones that visit, love and care for the VA Home bound veteran. They live close enough to visit, even with limited ability to travel.

Those are spouses many times in their – 70's, 80's and 90's. Do we not owe them something?

Case in point: The Caribou VA Home, Katy, the spouse of Jim, an Air Force Veteran residing at the Caribou VA Home, now able to visit Jim often. Her greatest fear, is Jim being moved down state, how often will she be able to see Jim – or ever see Jim?

Asking you not to vote dollars and cents, vote common sense – and respect for those who were willing to give all, if called to.

Cc: President of the Senate, Troy Jackson

Senator Craig Hickman, Chair