

FEB 0 1 1991

AGENT ORANGE COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP, INC.

"NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY GOVERNMENT AGENCY"

JAN 3 1 1991

Congressman Lane Evans,
1121 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 31, 1991

Dear Congressman Lane Evans,

The Agent Orange Community Support Group is a nonprofit (501-C-3) nonpolitical, self help public service corporation founded on the principal that crisis intervention for the victims of toxic poisoning should be established and instituted NOW. Agent Orange Community Support Group, Inc. was founded by Vietnam veterans because of our unique affiliation and exposure to toxic herbicides and pesticides used in Vietnam and the devastating affects they have had on ourselves and our families. After 20 years of suffering we have no where to go for assistance at any level - medical, financial or just to be heard and counceled. However, our purpose is not to exclusively serve veterans, as the agents of our afflictions have been domestically used in the U.S. for over 40 years. Our hope in establishing a rational approach to health care for chronic toxic poisoning will be of benefit to all Americans. If we can successfully help our Vietnam veterans with their toxic problems then we can offer those therapies or treatments to our fellow citizens who are suffering from many of the same afflictions.

The political bickering in Washington on Agent Orange has made it perfectly clear to us all that our future and that of our families health care is left solely on our shoulders. We are totally committed to fulfilling that obligation. We've been in operation for three years. Slowly we have developed a methodology of care that we believe has the best chance of fulfilling our primary purpose - To ease the suffering. Initiating this program is a

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matter of what resources are available and what we can expect to accomplish with the resources at hand.

We have, through our national "800" hotline, networked with thousands of veterans and their families. Just having someone who can empathetically relate to their suffering has given hope to those who previously had only frustration and rage. We are now raising funds to open a clinic to provide direct assistance of education, counseling and medical treatment.

The Agent Orange Community Support Group will operate a treatment and support center for veterans their families and in particular, their children who suffer from the effects of exposure to Agent Orange. At the AGENT ORANGE COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUP TREATMENT CENTER, the Vietnam veteran, their spouse and children with special health needs will receive medical, psychological, and behavioral evaluation and treatment of physical and mental/emotional disorders stemming from exposure to Agent Orange. In addition, supportive social services will link the veteran and family to existing resources via local, state and national interagency networking to further assist in their recovery process. Of particular concern will be the evaluation treatment and appropriate follow-up referral of class veteran's children who have birth defects and mental/emotional disabilities.

To accomplish our goals we must depoliticize the issue and seek nongovernment financial assistance. In this, prominent Americans as yourself can be instrumental in gaining recognition and support. To this end we would deeply appreciate your participation on our Ad Hoc Advisory Committee and further assisting us in any other manner you fell comfortable with.

For the sake of us all, we pray you will assist us in our goal to establish care based on need rather than political expediency.

Sincerely,



James L. Donaghe, President A.O.C.S.G. INC.

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